

yolo basin foundation

H 1008

P.O. Box 943
Davis, California
95617
916 756 7248

July 2, 1998

HAND DELIVERED

Kate Hansel
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0007

Re: CALFED Proposal; Discover the Flyway Program

Dear Ms. Hansel:

Enclosed are ten copies of a proposal in response to the 1998 Request for Proposals of the CALFED Bay-Delta program. Under this proposal, the Yolo Basin Foundation (Foundation) would expand its *Discover the Flyway* Program for schools, to thousands of elementary, middle school and high school students. The program would provide opportunities to teach important lessons on the Delta, habitat restoration, and the important interrelationships of fish and wildlife, farming, flood control, and water management.

The Foundation is a nonprofit (section 501(c)(3)) corporation, organized in 1990. It is universally credited with being the driving force behind the partnership that led to the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. The Wildlife Area is a 3,700-acre project for restoration of wetlands and other habitats, located in the Yolo Bypass. It is the largest restoration project in the western United States. Its realization required the participation, cooperation, and approval of a multitude of diverse agencies and interests, as detailed in attachments to the proposals. Our Board of Directors represents a broad cross-section of community leaders, including conservationists, farmers, hunters, business persons, and elected officials. The Foundation has received several regional and national awards for its accomplishments and for overall excellence in nonprofit management.

This proposal is for matching funding for expansion of the Foundation's *Discover the Flyway* Program. A primary goal of the Foundation is public education. This year, the *Discover the Flyway* Program brought an estimated 800 elementary school children to the Bypass. Dozens

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of those students were present when President Clinton dedicated the Yolo Bypass area last fall, encouraging collaborative habitat restoration and speaking specifically of the opportunities of CALFED. With CALFED support, our program will be expanded to include outreach and education for more students, from elementary to high school. With its strategic location, minutes from downtown Sacramento, the Bypass will be a showcase of dramatic habitat restoration. The expansion of *Discover the Flyway* will make large-scale public appreciation of the Bypass possible.

The proposal contains a great deal of detail, and we hope it is received favorably. Please contact Robin Kulakow, our Executive Director, if you have any questions or need additional information.

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Paul S. Simmons", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul S. Simmons
Chairman

Enclosures

cc: Robin Kulakow

H 1008

Attachment H

COVER SHEET (PAGE 1 of 2)

May 1998 CALFED ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROPOSAL SOLICITATION

Proposal Title: Discover the Flyway
 Applicant Name: Yolo Basin Foundation
 Mailing Address: PO Box 943, Davis, CA 95617
 Telephone: 530-756-7248
 Fax: 530-758-1673

Amount of funding requested: \$ 59,778 for 2 years (total)

Indicate the Topic for which you are applying (check only one box). Note that this is an important decision: see page ___ of the Proposal Solicitation Package for more information.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish Passage Assessment | <input type="checkbox"/> Fish Passage Improvements |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Floodplain and Habitat Restoration | <input type="checkbox"/> Gravel Restoration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish Harvest | <input type="checkbox"/> Species Life History Studies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Planning/Implementation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish Screen Evaluations - Alternatives and Biological Priorities | |

Indicate the geographic area of your proposal (check only one box):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sacramento River Mainstem | <input type="checkbox"/> Sacramento Tributary: _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Delta | <input type="checkbox"/> East Side Delta Tributary: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Suisun Marsh and Bay | <input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin Tributary: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Mainstem | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape (entire Bay-Delta watershed) | <input type="checkbox"/> North Bay: _____ |

Indicate the primary species which the proposal addresses (check no more than two boxes):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin and East-side Delta tributaries fall-run chinook salmon | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Winter-run chinook salmon | <input type="checkbox"/> Spring-run chinook salmon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Late-fall run chinook salmon | <input type="checkbox"/> Fall-run chinook salmon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delta smelt | <input type="checkbox"/> Longfin smelt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Splittail | <input type="checkbox"/> Steelhead trout |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Green sturgeon | <input type="checkbox"/> Striped bass |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Migratory birds | |

COVER SHEET (PAGE 2 of 2)

May 1998 CALFED ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROPOSAL SOLICITATION

Indicate the type of applicant (check only one box):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> State agency | <input type="checkbox"/> Federal agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Non-profit joint venture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-profit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local government/district | <input type="checkbox"/> Private party |
| <input type="checkbox"/> University | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Indicate the type of project (check only one box):

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Implementation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research | |

By signing below, the applicant declares the following:

- (1) the truthfulness of all representations in their proposal;
- (2) the individual signing the form is entitled to submit the application on behalf of the applicant (if applicant is an entity or organization); and
- (3) the person submitting the application has read and understood the conflict of interest and confidentiality discussion in the PSP (Section II.K) and waives any and all rights to privacy and confidentiality of the proposal on behalf of the applicant, to the extent as provided in the Section.

Ralph J. Kulakowski

(Signature of Applicant)

II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- a. **Project Title:** *Discover the Flyway*
Applicant: Yolo Basin Foundation, Inc.

b. **Project Description and Primary Biological/Ecological Objectives**

The goal of the *Discover the Flyway* (DTF) educational program is to make wetlands and their stewardship, in the context of the Yolo Basin, a consistent educational component in the elementary and middle schools of the Sacramento Region.

The program takes an ecosystem approach to educate teachers and students about wetland ecosystems and habitats. The educational content of DTF includes ecosystem relationships, habitats, species composition, human and natural threats, compatible land uses, and direct participatory action. Our objective is to encourage and develop long-term interest in wetland protection and restoration. The experience and knowledge that DTF offers will ultimately provide thousands of children the tools they need to make informed decisions about their environment.

DTF uses teacher-training workshops to provide teachers with the experience to successfully lead classroom, field studies and restoration activities in the Yolo Basin. Participating teachers are trained to use existing adapted curriculum following the state educational frameworks. Essential components of the program include recruiting teachers to participate in the program, training the teachers, scheduling field trips, recruiting, training and scheduling volunteers to assist on the field trips, coordinating and distributing plant materials, facilitating the field studies, and assessing the outcomes of the program.

c. **Approach/Tasks/Schedule**

Program year 1998/99: Implement **Phase 2:** Expand program to include curriculum and activities for middle school students and curriculum and activities for expansion sites. Emphasis is on the on-site, hands-on habitat restoration activities that are available to participating teachers.

Program year 1999/2000: Continue Phase 2 and implement **Phase 3:** Expand program to include high school students; develop educational materials/activities for upper grades, expand trips/training sessions for the general public. Develop additional section of teacher workbook to address relationship of Yolo Basin to Bay-Delta issues.

d. **Justification for Project and Funding by CALFED**

The newly established Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area offers a unique opportunity to promote ecosystem and habitat restoration as identified in the CALFED Implementation Strategy (ERPP, p. 26). The Yolo Bypass contains six priority habitats, seven of the priority species and shows examples of nine of the stressors affecting priority species and habitats. (Please refer to Attachment 2 for Habitat Type Map.) The Wildlife Area and the new City of Davis Wetlands offer opportunities for students see the results of a successful, continuing partnership and to be personally involved in a large ecosystem restoration project within the Yolo Basin.

e. **Budget Costs and Third Party Impacts**

Phase 2: CALFED: \$27,172 Yolo Basin Foundation: \$27,172
 Phase 3: CALFED: \$32,606 Yolo Basin Foundation: \$21,737

Total request from CALFED: \$59,778 to support two years of DTF program.

Due to the positive educational benefits of the *Discover the Flyway* program no negative third party impacts are anticipated.

f. Applicant Qualifications

The Foundation was formed in 1990 as a community based organization to assist in the establishment of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. It is a non-profit public benefit corporation dedicated to educating and inspiring people about wetlands and wildlife of the Central Valley. The 15-member board of directors represents a diverse group of interests, from agriculture and waterfowl conservation to local government and the business community (See Attachment 3). It is universally credited with being the driving force behind the successful Yolo Basin partnership. The result of the Foundation's efforts is the creation of a 3700-acre public Wildlife Area, with over \$12 million of state and federal funding. The successful implementation of Phase 1 of the *Discover the Flyway* program, as well as other educational programs administered by the Yolo Basin Foundation, are examples of the Foundation's abilities to develop and implement successful educational programs.

g. Monitoring and Data Evaluation

Numbers of participants and geographical location will be tracked for each year of the program. Teachers are asked to fill out evaluation forms at the workshop to give effective feedback on course content. A teacher advisory panel is available for direct input into workshop content and suitability of curriculum for students. A peer review of field visits by cooperating environmental educators will be implemented. Additionally, evaluation forms will be sent to field trip participants specifically regarding the quality of their trip. Monitoring the survival rate of the restoration will be an ongoing part of the program.

h. Local Support/Coordination with other Programs/Compatibility with CALFED objectives

The *Discover the Flyway* program is a partnership with California State Department of Fish and Game. Current year funders include: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, US Environmental Protection Agency, the Teichert Foundation, Friends of Yolo Basin Foundation, the City of Davis, and the Fidelity Charitable Trust. Volunteers from the community offer services such as Wildlife Observation and recording, leading public field trips, writing newsletter articles and assisting with student field trips. A natural tie-in to other environmental education programs within the Putah-Cache Creek Bioregion is being coordinated through the Regional Education Alliance, a project of the Public Service Research Group, with an ongoing grant from the National Science Foundation.

The program is compatible with seven of the CALFED objectives outlined in the ERPP. The educational program focuses on many of the ecosystem processes and beneficial aspects of the newly created Wildlife Area and Davis Wetlands, and the privately owned Conaway Ranch. These include restoring habitat for waterfowl and shorebirds, restoring permanent and seasonal habitat for wildlife, improving floodplain functions, improving water quality, assisting in the recovery of special status wildlife, restoring Bay-Delta foodweb organisms, reducing adverse affects of invasive, non-native plants, and learning about beneficially managed agricultural lands for wildlife species. Additionally, it strives to increase public awareness and conservation efforts, compatibility of urban life and agriculture, and effective wildlife management.

III. TITLE PAGE

a. **Project Title:** *Discover the Flyway*

b. **Applicant:** Yolo Basin Foundation, Inc.,
P.O. Box 943, Davis, CA, 95617,
Phone: (530)756-7248, Fax: (530)758-1673,
e-mail: robin@yolobasin.org

c. **Type of Organization:** Non-profit public benefit corporation, Tax Status: 501(c)3

d. **Tax Identification number:** Federal: 68-0230311,
California Corporation #C1668657

e. **Participants/Collaborators in Implementation:**

Partner: California State Department of Fish and Game (Memorandum of Understanding signed 5/97).

Cooperators: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, US Bureau of Reclamation, US Environmental Protection Agency, California Waterfowl Association, City of Davis, PG&E Properties, University of California, Davis, Putah-Cache Creek Bioregion Project and Regional Education Alliance, Yolo Audubon Society, Davis Community Network, Hedgerow Farms, and Cornflower Farms.

IV. Project Description

a. Project Description and Approach

The goal of *Discover the Flyway* (DTF) is to make wetlands and their stewardship, in the context of the Yolo Basin, a consistent educational component in the elementary and middle schools of the Sacramento Region. We hope that the students who visit wetlands in the Yolo Basin will develop a long-term interest in wetland protection and restoration that will lead to informed decision making in the future. The *Discover the Flyway* program uses teacher-training workshops to provide teachers with the experience to successfully lead classroom and field studies and restoration activities in the Yolo Basin. Participating teachers are given a DTF workbook as the main instructional tool, using environmental curriculum that follows the state educational frameworks for Science, Education and Language Arts. As a direct outcome of the workshops, students are given the opportunity to participate in the ongoing habitat restoration by planting native plants within the Yolo Basin.

Discover the Flyway began with Phase 1 in August 1997 by training 47 elementary school teachers about wetlands, the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, and how to use the area as an outdoor classroom. The teachers were supplied with workbooks and field equipment to guide activities that relate directly to the Wildlife Area, corresponding with instruction for pre- and post-field trip activities so that wetlands could be part of their curriculum throughout the school year. Some classes initiated a pilot sedge planting project by planting a limited number of native sedges within the Wildlife Area. The positive experience of the students in this activity prompted us to implement a more comprehensive restoration program this year.

This two-year proposal to CALFED will fund an expansion of the *Discover the Flyway* program. The first CALFED grant year of the program (Phase 2) will support the implementation of both elementary and middle school children visiting the Wildlife Area, and add the coordination of two venues within the Yolo Basin (the Conaway Ranch and the City of Davis Wetlands). To achieve this, we will hire an environmental educator to assemble and adapt educational materials for the Yolo Basin. It will expand the opportunities for classroom sedge growing and subsequent transplanting at the Wildlife Area or the Davis Wetlands. Sedges are compatible with the long-range restoration goals of Department of Fish and Game in the Wildlife Area, as they do not impair the flood carrying capacity within the Yolo Bypass.

By adding additional venues, Phase 2 will integrate the theme of "compatibility" into the program. A variety of crops are grown on the Conaway Ranch, as well as being managed for wildlife habitat by using many innovative farming methods. Teachers and students will see favorable wetland habitat and the wildlife it attracts; a productive organic rice farm; innovative irrigation systems; prime nesting habitat and brood ponds, all within a few miles of the urban setting in which they live. Adding the Davis Wetlands will bring a component of water quality, cycling, and water management into the program. Teachers and students will view actual tertiary treatment ponds that have been reconstructed and revegetated as wetlands and also managed for wildlife habitat. Additionally, they will have the opportunity to help restore waterfowl and shorebird habitat by planting native vegetation along the banks of the ponds. They will gain an understanding of the water cycle and treatment methods, and how natural systems can be beneficial to this process.

The second year of the CALFED grant (Phase 3) will build on the previous year's success and add a high school component, as well as an additional section of the workbook addressing specific Bay-Delta issues and their relation to the Yolo Basin. As in the first two years, the *Discover the*

Flyway program will include teacher workshops and school field trips to the Yolo Bypass, satellite sites, and volunteer recruitment for assisting with field trips.

Description of Habitat Restoration Component

As a part of the workshop, teachers and students are given the opportunity to further CALFED's goals by participating in habitat restoration at the Yolo Bypass and the Davis Wetlands. The Yolo Basin Foundation will make appropriate planting material available to teachers before their scheduled field trip. The students will care for and tend to the plants before coming to their field trip site, and then transplant them during their classroom trip. This hands-on project entails students learning about native plants, growth and care requirements, methods of measuring growth, and the many details involved in restorative planting in wetlands.

The CALFED grant will enable the Yolo Basin Foundation to hire a full time coordinator to plan for the workshops, implement recruiting and registration, develop curriculum, manage the restoration projects, schedule field trips, and follow through on evaluations and report writing. It will also allow the Foundation to expand on its own fund-raising initiatives to support the program in future years.

b. Proposed Scope of Work

The overall theme of the *Discover the Flyway* program emphasizes the vital role of wetlands for the Central Valley's diverse birds, fish and other wildlife, and how wetlands are being brought back to life by restoration activities. Sub-themes will include wetland types; biodiversity of wetland ecosystems and threats to these habitats; water and land management, flood control, human influence on natural systems, and stewardship. The world of plants, soils, habitat restoration, agriculture, water, history, and partnerships is open to exploration. We stress the importance of partnerships and cooperation to achieve goals that benefit both people and wildlife. Emphasis is made on the compatibility of wetlands and wildlife management with agriculture and flood control.

Task 1: Implementation of DTF Field Trips*

Sept 98-May 1999 \$8300

Schedule field trip dates and supply materials for teachers.

Deliverable: 50 or more classroom field trips

Task 2: Restoration Program*

Sept 98-May 1999 \$8800

Develop care and distribution process for plant materials for classroom and field trip activities.

Deliverable: 5,000 native sedge or grass seedlings planted in the Yolo Basin; care guideline sheet

Subtasks:

- Arrange for the collecting/planting of seeds with nursery.
- Tending, and watering seedlings until distribution.
- Schedule pick up of materials and planting dates with teachers

Task 3: Train Volunteer Flyway Assistants to assist with school field trips

Sept 1998 \$3320

Deliverable: 15-20 volunteer assistants

Subtasks:

- Recruit and contact interested community members and parents for training session.
- Develop materials to instruct Flyway Assistants.
- Hold training session in September.

Task 4: Teacher Workshops 1999***March-August 1999****\$3370**

We will hold three teacher's workshops to accommodate 75 teachers in August 1999. Two workshops will be for elementary (grades 2-6) teachers, and one for middle school (grades 7-9) teachers. The program will expand to include material and activities appropriate for high school teachers, including working with high school teachers to develop and implement a program. Deliverable: 75 additional teachers trained

Subtasks:

- Recruit teachers
- Set up registration system for workshop; register participants
- Send confirmation letters and maps

Task 5: Workbook 1999***April-July 1999****\$8180**

Revise and expand Phase 2 workbook to include activities appropriate for high school. Add section of workbook pertaining to Bay-Delta issues and CALFED objectives. Deliverable: workbook for participating teachers and volunteers

Subtasks:

- Assemble materials for the development of the workbook
- Hire environmental educator to develop workbook and background materials
- Review proposed workbook with teacher advisory panel
- Print, assemble all workbook materials

Task 6: Reporting/evaluation***Quarterly****\$4780**

Complete quarterly reports, send, receive, analyze evaluations. Deliverable: Various reports as needed

*Inseparable tasks integral to program

Grants awarded to the Foundation in 1998 will fund the Phase 2 implementation throughout the school year, and fund the 1999 Phase 3 summer teacher workshops. The second year of CALFED funding will support the scheduling and implementation of Phase 3, plus the year 2000 summer workshops. Tasks for each year follow a logical progression paralleling the school calendar.

c. Location and/or geographic boundaries of project

Location: Yolo Basin, Yolo County, terminus of Putah-Cache Creek Watershed. Principal site: Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area; east of Davis, West of Sacramento, south of I-80 freeway. Refer to Attachment I, Regional Map.

The Yolo Basin is in the Pacific Flyway where thousands of migratory waterfowl gather every winter. It is part of the North Delta Ecological Unit and is located within the legal definition of the Delta. Recent studies by the Department of Water Resources show that the Yolo Bypass provides an important passageway and rearing habitat for many species of fish found in the Sacramento River. The additional educational venues are situated north of this area and provide ecological links for migratory waterfowl as well as neotropical migrants, and other wildlife within the Yolo Basin.

The location of the educational venues in the *Discover the Flyway*, within easy reach of the Bay Area and within 15 minutes of downtown Sacramento, represents an unparalleled educational

opportunity to expose large numbers of students to the beauties and importance of restored and well-managed wetlands and migratory waterfowl habitat.

d. Expected Benefits

The Wildlife Area offers a unique opportunity to promote ecosystem restoration and education as identified in the CALFED Implementation Strategy. In effect, the Wildlife Area serves as a living laboratory or demonstration project to observe, monitor, and educate teachers, students, and the public to many of the objectives identified in the ERPP. As referenced below, the Yolo Bypass contains six priority habitats (p. 31), seven of the priority species (p. 33) and shows examples of nine of the stressors affecting priority species and habitats (p. 32). (See Attachment 2 for a Habitat Type Map.)

Primary benefits:

In each year of the program, seventy-five additional teachers instructing approximately 2000 students will have the skills and knowledge to incorporate wetland curricula into their annual lesson plan. They will be able to lead field trips to a wetland area and perform specific activities adapted to the area. The skills they will be able to impart to their students include: 1) awareness and sensitivity to natural environments and interactions that exist in a wetland area; 2) acquire an understanding of the environment in the Wildlife Area, its place in the Bay-Delta ecosystem, what plants and animals live there; 3) learn the value of a natural environment, 4) motivate them to actively participate in environmental protection; 5) acquire the tools for identifying, understanding, and solving environmental problems; 6) learn to work together with various interest groups of the community to solve problems; 7) understand management objectives 8) develop life long enjoyment of the Wildlife Area and to encourage them to return with their families and peers, 9) actively take part in an ongoing restoration project.

The Wildlife Area encompasses or is located adjacent to the following Priority Habitats as identified in the Implementation Strategy: Tidal perennial aquatic habitat (freshwater), Seasonal wetland and aquatic, instream aquatic habitat, Shaded riverine aquatic habitat, North Delta agricultural wetlands and perennial grasslands (p. 67, PSP).

In times of flooding, due to the overflow of the Sacramento at the Fremont Weir into the Yolo Bypass, the Wildlife Area can contain any fish species normally found within the Sacramento River. These may include the Primary Priority and Secondary Species, winter run Chinook salmon, spring run Chinook salmon, splittail, Delta smelt, steelhead trout, green sturgeon, giant garter snake (p. 34, ERPP). The Wildlife Area also provides habitat for the Swainson's Hawk and migratory birds (waterfowl, shorebirds, waders, and neotropical migrants). (Reference: Project Modification Report and Environmental Assessment/Initial Study, Yolo Basin Wetlands.) In addition, Putah Creek has the finest surviving assemblage of native fish of any Central Valley Stream.

Education about the conversion of the Wildlife Area from laser leveled agricultural fields to a wetland ecosystem will illustrate the following stressors affecting priority species and habitats and methods of addressing them:

- Alteration of Flows and Other Effects of Water Management
- Floodplain and Marshplain Changes
- Channel Form Changes, Loss of Existing Riparian Zone
- Water quality

- Water Temperature
- Undesirable Species Interactions, Management of exotic species
- Population Management
- Land Use
- Human Disturbance

A significant benefit is the illustration of a successful partnership where stakeholders are organized and operate through consensus. Education regarding these issues, species, and habitats will empower teachers, students, and parents to become a more informed public.

Benefits to CALFED mission and implementation of ecosystem restoration goals:

The *Discover the Flyway* educational program addresses each of the four objectives identified in the CALFED mission (p. 5, PSP). It provides teacher training and the opportunity for thousands of students to learn about processes to 1) provide good water quality for beneficial uses, incorporating the sites of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and the Davis Wetlands at the Water Pollution Control Plant. 2) It brings students directly to areas of increased aquatic and terrestrial habitats, and invites them to participate in improving ecological functions to increase biodiversity in the North Delta Ecosystem Unit. 3) It exposes participants to the myriad of beneficial uses, which are dependent on the Bay-Delta system and the water flows necessary to achieve them. And 4) demonstrates specifically how various land uses and economic activities are affected by water management.

Quantity:

Hundreds of thousands of students from 2-9th grades are located within the targeted area for the DTF workshops in Sacramento, Yolo, and Solano counties. Each year the program builds on itself as 50-100 additional teachers are trained to bring students to the wetlands field sites. In the first year of the program, we have found that trained teachers will bring one or two other classes in addition to their own. Thus the occurrence of each year's workshops increase the potential for the number of field trips to at least double the number of teachers trained. The expected number of student visits in each year of the program is 2000.

e. Background and Biological/Technical Justification

The newly established Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area is managed by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). Previously, the land was laser leveled agricultural acreage with purchased easements for flood control for the Yolo Bypass. Though the Area received much attention with the dedication of President Clinton in November 1997, many of the region's inhabitants are yet unaware of the conversion to a state Wildlife Area and the multiple benefits of the project. CDFG does not provide educational or interpretive services at this location. The Yolo Basin Foundation fills a need by providing a service to the public by offering an educational program to the Wildlife Area and other wetland sites within the Yolo Basin. Additionally, the addition of a hands-on restoration component is an unequalled opportunity for participation in restoration activities within the Yolo Basin. This type of education is long lasting and promotes CALFED's efforts in long range ecosystem health priorities.

Specific lessons and activities focussing on ecosystem restoration are a major component of *Discover the Flyway*. Additional components include various habitat types, water quality and water management, flood control, agriculture practices beneficial to wildlife, human influences on natural processes, exotic and natural species, and decision making exercises.

Specific ERPP objectives that will be emphasized in the program include Natural Floodplain and Flood Processes. (Ecological processes Section, Yolo Basin Ecological Zone, p. 331, Targets 2-4). Newly restored native vegetation is providing increased habitat for wildlife (objective for Riparian and Riverine Aquatic Habitat p. 332, Target 1) to "create high-quality habitat for associated special-status plant and animal species and other wildlife." Within the Wildlife Area are examples of restored riparian habitat with nesting special status Swainson's Hawk, and it is a prime viewing area for classroom field trips. Ongoing vegetation management of Wildlife Area includes management of invasive species (p. 334, Target 1).

Sacramento-San-Joaquin Delta Ecological Zone--"Habitat restoration...(is) the primary focus of the restoration program in the North Delta Ecological Unit" (p.26). The Yolo Bypass is one of the four areas of focus in this unit. The Wildlife Area is being managed to restore native habitat for waterfowl and wildlife species. The Implementation Objective to "restore basic hydraulic conditions to reactivate and maintain ecological processes that create and sustain habitat required for healthy fish, wildlife, and plant populations" (p. 39, General Target) is precisely the goal of the Wildlife Area Management Plan. The DTF program emphasizes this goal to participants. Improving floodplain functions (p.42, Target 1), improving nutrients available for foodweb productivity (p.45, Target 1), and restoring wetland and riparian habitat in freshwater areas (p.49, Target 1), seasonal habitat (p. 51, Target 1), perennial grasslands (p.54, Target 1), and managing agricultural lands for wildlife values (p.55, Target 1) are all integrated into the DTF curriculum and activities.

The durability of the lessons learned will be life-long. The opportunity for students to see wildlife up close and help restore their habitat will be an experience they can share with their families for years to come. The current status of the DTF program is in the planning phase for its second year. The accomplishments to date include the visitation of over 800 students, 33 classes and approximately 100 parents. (This was accomplished in spite of the Wildlife Area's closure due to flooding for over three months).

f. Monitoring and Data Evaluation

Numbers of participants and geographical location will be tracked for each year of the program. Teachers are asked to fill out evaluation forms at the workshop to give effective feedback on course content. A teacher advisory panel is available for direct input into workshop content and suitability of information for students. Peer review of field activities will be implemented. Additionally, evaluation forms will be sent to field trip participants specifically regarding the quality of their trip. Monitoring the survival rate of the restoration will be an ongoing part of the program. Quarterly reporting will be completed as required by the PSP.

g. Implementability

Since the *Discover the Flyway* program is already in its first year, the skills and organizational structure already exists to expand the program. In 1997 the Yolo Basin Foundation successfully negotiated and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with California Department of Fish and Game formally establishing the educational partnership between the Foundation and the Department and documenting the Foundation's role in providing educational programs for the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area.

V. Costs and Schedule to Implement Proposed Project

a. Budget Costs Per Year

Project Phase and Task	Direct Labor Hours	Direct Salary and Benefits	Overhead Labor	Service Contracts	Materials and Acquisition Contracts	Misc. and other Direct Costs	Total Costs
Task 1 Implement DTF Field Trips	520	8619	3925 (Project mgmt. and support)		720 (phone) 1000 (office supplies) 1000 (field supplies)		\$15,264
Task 2 Restoration Program	520	8619	3925 (Project mgmt. and support)		1000 (planting materials)		\$13,544
Task 3 Train Volunteers	208	3447	500		200 (supplies)		\$4147
Task 4 Teacher Workshops	312	5171	500	2800	1000 (supplies, postage)		\$9471
Task 5 Workbook	312	5171	500		1100 (printing)	1000 (layout)	\$7771
Task 6 Reporting	208	3447	500		200 (supplies)		\$4147
Totals	2080	\$34,474	\$9,850	\$2800	\$6220	\$1000	\$54,344

CALFED funding gives the Yolo Basin Foundation the funding certainty and stability to expand the program into Phases 2 and 3. The budget and tasks for each year are essentially the same; differences being the addition of an age component with specific curriculum and activities for each year. Additionally, Phase 3 will add a section to the workbook addressing specific Bay-Delta issues and the correlation to the Yolo Basin. Once established, this program will continue to provide essential services for years to come.

The Foundation is requesting that CALFED fund fifty percent of the *Discover the Flyway* program in the first year, due to the significant benefits to successful implementation of the CALFED goals. This will allow the Foundation to increase the position of the Program Coordinator to full time in order to effectively manage the increase in volume, material, and program goals of DTF as well as initiate other fund raising activities. The Coordinator will assist in efforts of the Foundation to increase its membership and direct contribution funding. CALFED funds will be matched by Yolo Basin Foundation funds 50/50 in the first year and 60/40 in the second year as more benefits are realized.

Current year funders for the *Discover the Flyway* program are Teichert Foundation, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Friends of the Yolo Basin Foundation (membership). The California Department of Fish and Game is making significant inkind contributions, including providing training and educational materials, office, storage and meeting space, field equipment (scopes and binoculars) as well as use of office equipment. They will manage a designated portion of the Wildlife Area for wildlife viewing including serviceable roads and parking lots, trails, and portable toilets. Other inkind services will be made available from California Waterfowl Association in the distribution of *Wild About Wetland* classroom resource

kits (produced by Yolo Basin Foundation), the UC Davis Bioregion Project, and the Regional Education Alliance.

Other funding sources:

The Yolo Basin Foundation has a diverse funding base that supports its educational programs and makes programs such as this possible. There is a stable membership base of hundreds of supporters (Friends). Significant funds also come from the annual Bucks for Ducks fundraiser held every fall and now in its seventh year. Last year we initiated the Yolo Flyway Club for donors of \$1,000 or more. We produce and sell Western Waterfowl Identification cards to stores and refuges all over the U.S. and some in Canada. This year we published and began selling Discovering Yolo County Wildlife by John Kemper. We submit several grant proposals to private foundations and corporations with giving programs each year. It is anticipated that a portion of the current year funders will continue their support in following years.

b. Schedule milestones:

First funding year:

September 1998	Volunteer Training for 1998/99 school year
May 1999	2000 student visits completed in 98/99 school year
May 1999	Completion of 5000 native plants planted in Yolo Basin
July 1999	Completion of 1999 expanded teacher workbook
August 1999	1999 Phase 3 teacher workshops

Second funding year:

September 1999	Volunteer Training for 1999/00 school year
May 2000	3000 additional student visits in 1999/00 school year
May 2000	completion of 5000 native plants in Yolo Basin
July 2000	Completion of year 2000 expanded teacher workbook
August 2000	2000 teacher workshops

c. Third Party Impacts

Due to the positive educational benefits of the *Discover the Flyway* program no negative third party impacts are anticipated.

V. Applicant Qualifications

The Yolo Basin Foundation has a proven record of success. President Clinton acknowledged this in November 1997 by saying, "You're doing the right thing and you're doing it in the right way....there is no challenge facing this country that we cannot meet if will just do what you have done here." Our efforts have been recognized in many ways. In August 1995 the Foundation was presented with a National Wetlands Conservation Award for the Private Sector from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the groundbreaking ceremony. In his remarks at the ceremony, Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt lauded our success in creating the largest wetlands restoration project west of the Everglades. Other awards to the Foundation include the Award for Excellence in Nonprofit Management given by the San Francisco based Management Center. At the State of the Estuary conference in October 1996, the Foundation was recognized for outstanding implementation of the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan for the San Francisco Bay Estuary. An editorial from the Sacramento Bee recognized the role of the Foundation in creating the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. The Foundation and the Wildlife Area have also been featured in the New York Times, the Davis Enterprise, Woodland Democrat, West Sacramento Press, the LA Times, U.S. Water News and Wetland Link International News.

The Yolo Basin Foundation is well suited to initiating and managing an education program that stresses partnerships. The Program itself is a partnership with the California Department of Fish and Game, which owns and manages the Wildlife Area. The Foundation also works closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District; California Waterfowl Association; the University of California at Davis; Putah-Cache Creek Bioregion Project and the University-sponsored Regional Education Alliance, Putah Creek Council, Cache Creek Conservancy, Yolo County Resource Conservation District and Yolo Audubon Society. As the sponsor of California Duck Days, one of the largest on-going annual wetland education festivals in the United States, the Foundation participates in the growing ecotourism movement with direct educational benefits flowing to CALFED's mission. The event was honored in 1997 with a "Public Education Award" for its success in promoting awareness and understanding of water environment issues in the Sacramento River watershed.

The Foundation's Board of Directors represents a cross section of the stakeholder groups with an interest in the Bypass, a further qualification for directing an educational program. The Board has ties throughout the Yolo Basin and the greater Putah-Cache Creek Watershed. Various Foundation board members also serve as board members of other watershed groups with an interest in the Bypass including Putah Creek Council, Cache Creek Conservancy, and the Yolo County Resource Conservation District. The variety of interests supporting the Foundation and its activities is demonstrated by the list of sponsors for its annual fundraiser. The list can be found in *The Yolo Flyway*, page 13. (Attachment 4)

The Foundation continues as the communication link between the many people and organizations involved in creating and managing the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Other Foundation-sponsored educational programs underway include: California Duck Days - a three day waterfowl and wetlands festival in the heart of the Pacific Flyway; publishing the *Yolo Flyway*; *Wild About Wetlands* classroom resource and curriculum kits; and introducing people to the natural places in the community through our public field trips. This activity is managed, coordinated, and produced by a small staff and a core of dedicated volunteers, in the best grass-roots tradition.

Project Administration

Robin Kulakow, Executive Director of the Foundation will serve as the project manager. Ms. Kulakow was a founding member of the Yolo Basin Working Group and the Yolo Basin Foundation. She has served as Executive Director of the Yolo Basin Foundation since January 1991. Ms. Kulakow has a bachelor's degree in Soil Science from UC Berkeley and a Master of Administration degree from UC Davis. She worked for the U.S. Forest Service as a district soil scientist and has budgetary and legislative experience with the State Department of Finance, State Board of Equalization, and the California Conservation Corps. Ms. Kulakow has been the recipient of the California Department of Fish and Game Director's Achievement Award and the City of Davis' first Environmental Recognition Award for her efforts leading to the establishment of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. She is a founding board member of the Putah Creek Council and the Cache Creek Conservancy. The Soroptimist Club has also recognized her for her achievements. She has made presentations to the State of the Estuary Conference, the SERCAL (Society for Ecological Restoration, California Chapter) annual conference, and at the National Watchable Wildlife Convention.

Cheryl Chipman serves as Program Coordinator and will have day to day responsibility for developing and managing the *Discover the Flyway* program. She will do the outreach, registration, coordination of activities for the workshops, and assist in revising and adapting new curriculum for the expanded portion of the program. She will schedule and coordinate all field trips and restoration activities with site managers throughout the school year. Cheryl has experience in environmental education and outreach through the US Forest Service as well as an urban forestry non-profit organization in San Francisco. She holds a Masters degree in Environmental Policy and Management from the University of Denver.

Kathy Wells—Environmental Educator. Kathy will be the primary instructor of the workshops, and will compile the curriculum material for the expanded workbook for older students. She is a very experienced and highly effective educator who currently teaches middle school and is a former environmental educator with the US Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco Bay Model. She will develop specific middle and high school curriculum and provide the content and training for the four summer workshops.

Liz Merry—Advisor. Liz was responsible for the first year of the *Discover the Flyway* program, participating in designing, organizing, and teaching the workshops and curriculum. She is a graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles and is currently enrolled in the Masters of Business Administration program at California State University, Sacramento. She is employed by the Foundation as Program Coordinator for California Duck Days. Under her direction this wetlands festival has grown in both scope and participation to rank among the largest in the country.

Bruce Forman—Advisor. Bruce is an Interpretive Services Supervisor for the California Department of Fish and Game. He was instrumental in developing curriculum for the first year of the program. He assisted in teaching a portion of the workshop and provided instructional materials. He will continue to advise and evaluate the program to make it more effective for participants.

Teacher Advisory panel—Teachers who have participated in the program in the past will be invited to serve on an advisory panel to make suggestions and recommendations on improvements for the program. These teachers have been very helpful in the past and are committed to working

with the Yolo Basin Foundation to improve the program. Their assistance is critical in refining the program to make it more effective for participants.

Flyway Assistants—Trained volunteers from the community who can assist with field trips. These community volunteers are very knowledgeable about local waterfowl and are interested in advancing the goals of the *DTF* program. Flyway Assistants are an extra set of eyes and hands for the teachers and are extremely helpful with wildlife identification at the Wildlife Area.

The collaborating participants in the *Discover the Flyway* program are:

Partner: California State Department of Fish and Game (Memorandum of Understanding signed 5/97), (use of facilities, equipment, office space, access to Wildlife Area, training, development of educational materials)

Cooperators: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife Service, California Waterfowl Association, University of California, Davis, Putah-Cache Creek Bioregion Project and Regional Education Alliance, Yolo Audubon Society, City of Davis, Conaway Ranch Conservancy, and Davis Community Network. Davis Community Network is providing for one year free website space, free e-mail accounts, and assistance with a website to be used for outreach and volunteer coordination.

Current year funders: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Teichert Foundation, City of Davis, Friends of Yolo Basin Foundation, and the Fidelity Charitable Trust.

Conflicts of interest: We are not aware of any potential conflicts.

VII. Compliance with standard terms and conditions.

All terms and conditions are agreeable to the Yolo Basin Foundation and compliance will not be a problem.

See Attachment 7, Nondiscrimination form.

List of Attachments

Attachment 1	Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Regional Map
Attachment 2	Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat Map
Attachment 3	Yolo Basin Foundation Board of Directors
Attachment 4	<i>Yolo Flyway</i> newsletter, Fall 1997
Attachment 5	Project references
Attachment 6	Davis Enterprise "Clinton praises wetlands project."
Attachment 7	Davis Enterprise "Schoolchildren discover the Yolo Bypass flyway."

DISCRIMINATION COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

ITEM 7

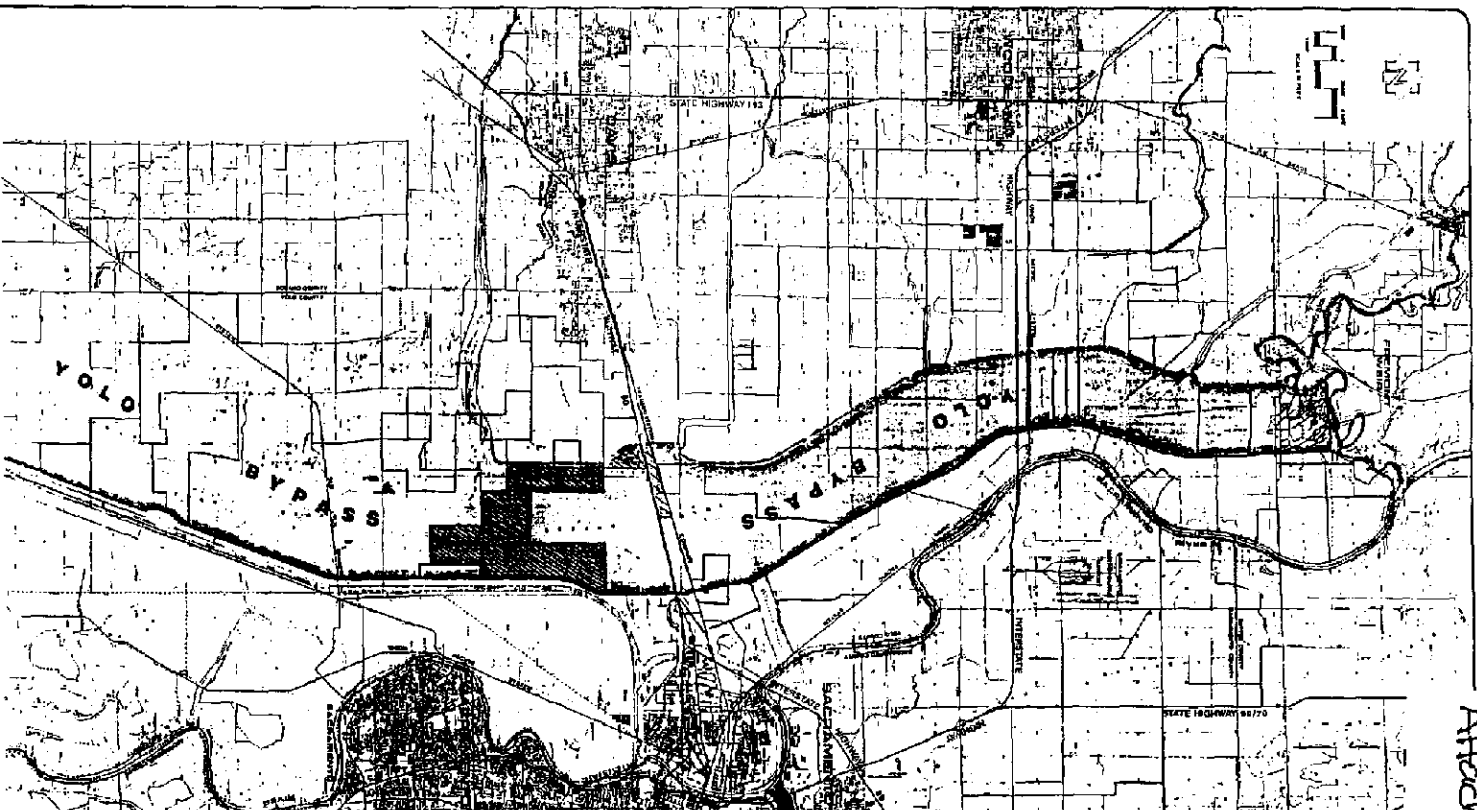
ANY NAME

The company named above (hereinafter referred to as "prospective contractor") hereby certifies, unless specifically exempted, compliance with Government Code Section 12990 (a-f) and California Code of Regulations, Title 2, Division 4, Chapter 5 in matters relating to reporting requirements and the development, implementation and maintenance of a Nondiscrimination Program. Prospective contractor agrees not to unlawfully discriminate, harass or allow harassment against any employee or applicant for employment because of sex, race, color, ancestry, religious creed, national origin, disability (including HIV and AIDS), medical condition (cancer), age, marital status, denial of family and medical care leave and denial of pregnancy disability leave.

CERTIFICATION

I, the official named below, hereby swear that I am duly authorized to legally bind the prospective contractor to the above described certification. I am fully aware that this certification, executed on the date and in the county below, is made under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California.

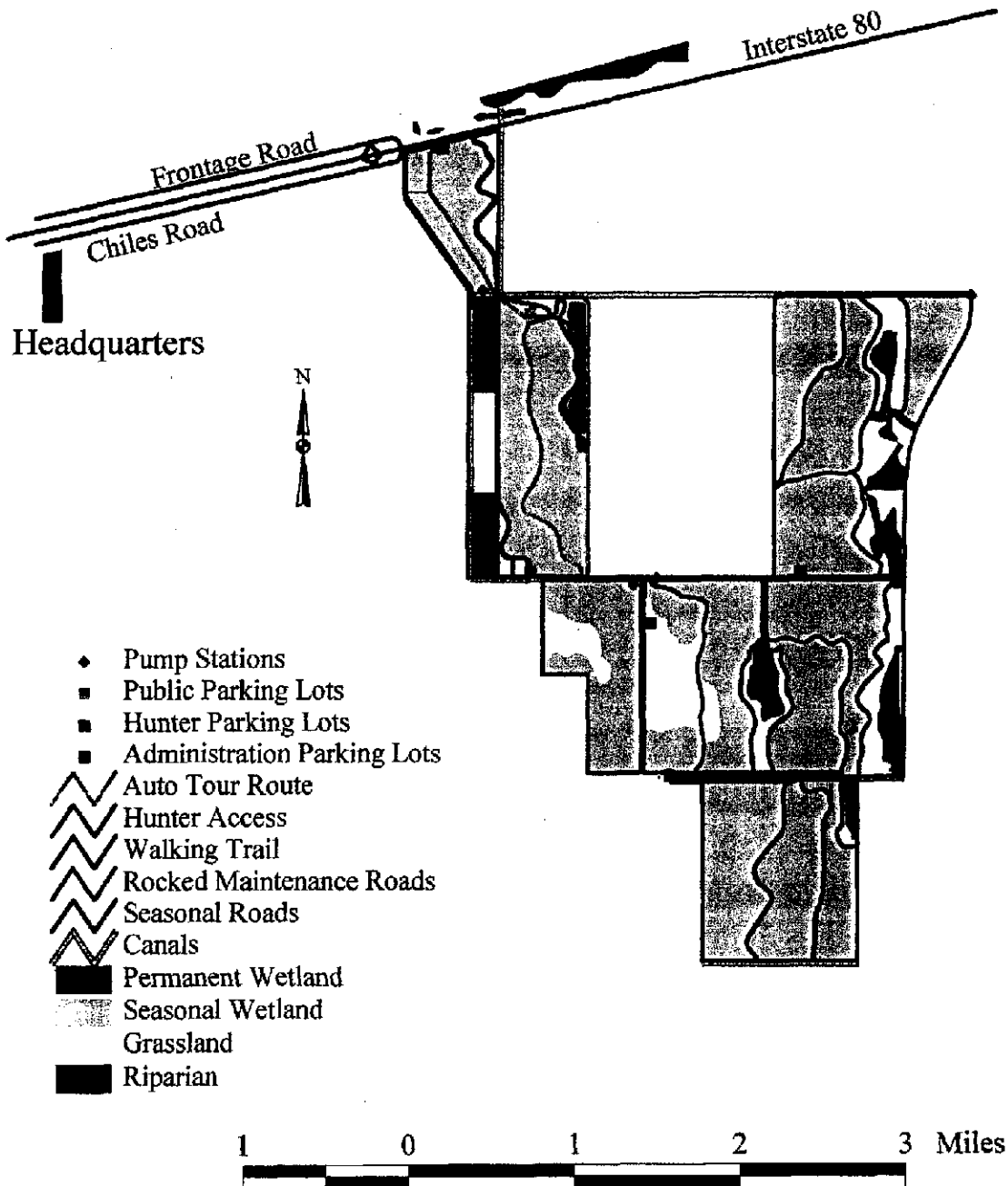
OFFICIAL'S NAME Robin J. Kulakow	
DATE EXECUTED 6-17-98	EXECUTED IN THE COUNTY OF Yolo
PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S SIGNATURE Robin J. Kulakow	
PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S TITLE Executive Director	
PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S LEGAL BUSINESS NAME Yolo Basin Foundation, Inc.	



YOLO BASIN WILDLIFE AREA

1-012467

YOLO BYPASS WILDLIFE AREA



**Yolo Basin Foundation
Board of Directors, June 1998**

The following is a listing of the board of directors with a brief description of their professional affiliations:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| John Anderson | University of California, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (retired)
Yolo Co. Resource Conservation District, associate director
Founding member Calif. Native Grass Association
Owner, Hedgerow Farms,
Farmer actively involved in native habitat restoration and commercial production of native grass seed for restoration. |
| Manny Carbahal | <i>Chief Financial Officer, YBF Executive Committee</i>
Certified Public Accountant, Carbahal & Co.
Yolo County Chamber of Commerce
Yolo County Fair Board of Directors
Budget Committee, Davis Joint Unified School District |
| Robin Kulakow | <i>Secretary,</i>
<i>Executive Director</i>
Masters of Administration, UC Davis
Putah Creek Council, treasurer
Cache Creek Conservancy board of directors |
| Mike Lien | Walker, Donant and Company (builders & developers)
L&D Landfill, L&D Recycling
Yolo County Solid Waste Advisory Committee |
| Betsy Marchand | Yolo County Board of Supervisors (retired)
Special Projects Coordinator,
Yolo-Solano Flood Control & Water Conservation District
Governmental Affairs, Families First |
| Frank MacBride | <i>YBF Executive Committee</i>
President, MacBride Realty Co., Sacramento
Landowner, Yolo Bypass duck club
Sacramento Rotary Club |
| Ken Noack Jr. | KVIE Public Television, Board of Directors
Rotary club of Sacramento, Board of Directors
Sacramento Society for the Blind, Board of Directors
Land Broker, Bishop Hawk, Sacramento |

David Rosenberg	Yolo County Supervisor, District 4 Attorney-at-Law Former Mayor of Davis Commission, California Council on Criminal Justice
Susan Sanders	Ph.D., Zoology, UC Davis Consulting wildlife biologist (freelance) Former president, Yolo Audubon Society Former co chair, Putah Creek Council
Bob Schneider	West Davis Associates (land development) Ridge Builders Group, owner Sierra Club California, executive committee Davis Chamber of Commerce UC Davis Chancellors Club Rotary Club of Davis
Paul Simmons	<i>President, YBF Executive Committee</i> Attorney at law, De Cuir and Somach, Sacramento Sacramento Rotary Club
Meg Stallard	<i>Vice-president, YBF Executive Committee</i> Vice President, Woodland School Board League of Women Voters UC Davis Alumni Association, Board of Directors UC Davis Chancellors Club
Chris Unkel	California Nature Conservancy, Director, California Wetlands Program Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture, Board of Directors
Lois Wolk	Mayor , City of Davis(retired) Yolo County Board of Supervisors (elected) Council liaison for water and wetlands Member, Yolo County Water Resources Association Davis Chamber of Commerce

YOLO FLYWAY

Volume 6, Issue 3, Winter 1997

A PUBLICATION OF THE YOLO BASIN FOUNDATION

★ SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL EDITION ★

President Clinton Visits the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and Likes What He Sees

By Susan Sanders

Mildest plans for a dedication ceremony to mark the official opening of the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area suddenly blossomed into a mad and joyous scramble when President Clinton announced he would be in attendance at the ceremony. With barely one week's notice, Ducks Unlimited, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the California Department of Fish and Game, and the Yolo Basin Foundation had to radically shift gears to accommodate the extraordinary demands of a presidential visit. After literally thousands of phone calls, many conferences with White House staff and Secret Service, and Herculean efforts by the Corps to make the muddy roads drivable and safe, all was ready for the November 15th ceremony.

The day dawned inauspiciously stormy, but hundreds of undaunted Wildlife Area supporters began arriving hours before the dedication ceremony and worked their



President Clinton meets the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area staff and Deputy Secretary of the Interior John Garamendi, Congressman Vic Jatta, Yolo Basin Foundation Executive Director Robin Kujawa, and Congressman Mike Schauer. Photo courtesy of Mark Mallard, Davis Postscript.



President Clinton talking with a young boy. Photo courtesy of Tom and Sally Myers.

way through the tight security. Transported by comfortable chartered buses to a most uncomfortable and unsheltered spot in the Wildlife Area, everyone began a long but good-natured wait for the festivities to begin. The only entertainers were flocks of tundra swans and white-fronted geese, who cooperatively displayed themselves overhead to the wet crowd.

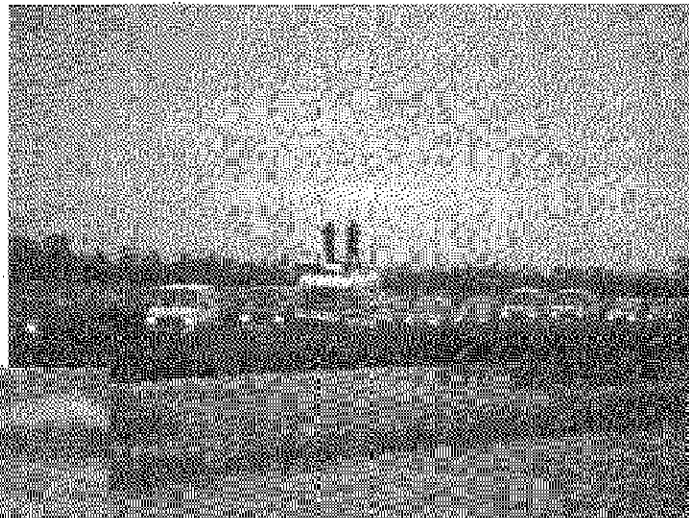
Finally, the astonishing motorcade arrived, a caravan of 27 vehicles on the rocky levee roads. Accompanying the President were Congressman Pataki and Deputy Secretary of the Interior John Garamendi. Some of our own local historians led the entourage once it arrived at the Wildlife Area - Yolo Basin Foundation executive director Robin Kujawa and local farmer John Schmidt were there in the lead vehicle along with Wildlife Area Manager Craig Serwer and Chief Deputy Fred Cole.

Robin and Greg had the opportunity to take the

continued on p. 2

CLINTON *continued from p. 1*

President on a walking tour of the Wildlife Area. The President started off the walk by saying to Robin, "Tell me what you have here." He asked questions about specific bird species, compared the area to the Mississippi Delta and discussed farming programs with Greg. Plenty of ducks welcomed the President as he viewed the area. The press corps was kept at a distance, crowded onto a small turn-out at the road. Toward the end of the walk



Presidential motorcade arriving at the Pavilion. Photo courtesy of Tom and Sally Myers.

Congressman Vic Fazio and Deputy Secretary John Harmanen joined the three.

A greeting party including California Resources Secretary Doug Wheeler, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Richard Rominger, Ducks Unlimited Chairman of the Board John E. Walker, and Yolo Basin Foundation Chairman Paul Simmons welcomed the President. The speeches began with a welcome by John E. Walker. A beaming Congressman Fazio said it all when he said "I've visited this area many times but I've never had as much

fun as the time I brought the President to the Yolo Hypass." Next Sarah Julian, representing the Yolo Basin Foundation, introduced the President with an outstanding speech describing her volunteer work with the Foundation and what the project meant to her.

Clinton's speech was funny, uplifting, and very appropriate. He really understood what the Wildlife Area was all about, acknowledging the exceptional collaboration and effort that made the Wildlife Area happen, and said, "this project is the embodiment of not only what we should be doing as Americans on



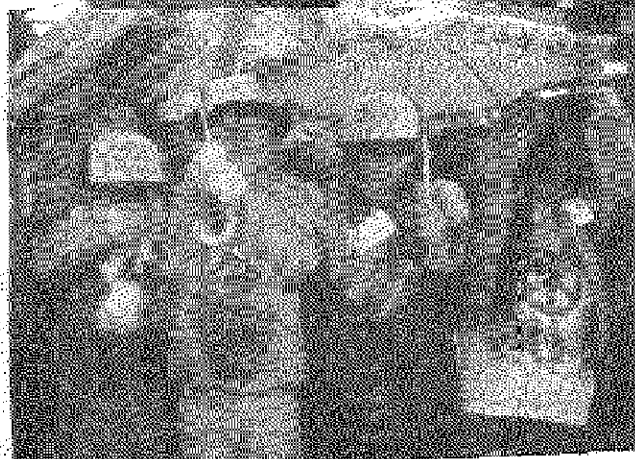
With Yolo-Basin Foundation volunteers waiting for the President's arrival. Photo courtesy of Tom and Sally Myers.

"the edge of a new century, but how we should be doing it." After he spoke, Clinton lingered for almost an hour, mingling with the crowd and warmly shaking everyone's hand.

A crowd of over 500 had waited two to three hours in the painfully cold rain and wind, but there were few complaints. It was not so much the thrill of being able to see and touch The President, but rather what his presence represented. Everyone in the crowd (and many of you reading this newsletter) had made some contribution to shaping the



President Clinton shakes hands with Greg, former from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Photos courtesy of Nashville's Daily News.



Second graders from Lincoln Primary School in Pioneer School District and staff. These students are representing the John B. Fennell Jr. Discovery Program. Photos courtesy of Tom and Sally Scott.

dream of the Wildlife Area into reality. And here was one of the most powerful people on the planet telling us he thought we had all done a great job, and that everyone else in the country could learn from us. It doesn't get much better than that. For all of you Wildlife Area supporters out there, give yourself a presidential pat on the back. Your hard work has been recognized at the highest level.

SPRING PLANTING ALERT: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Yolo Basin Foundation has just embarked on a new project to plant 10,000 native California grass and shrubs in the Gateway 200 of the Yolo Basin. Wildlife Area. The Gateway 200 is a large restoration area that will be planted with native grasses and shrubs. The project is a joint effort of the Yolo Basin Foundation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The project is a joint effort of the Yolo Basin Foundation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The project is a joint effort of the Yolo Basin Foundation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Gateway 200 is a large area of about 1700 acres of land north of the I-80 and the Yolo Causeway and south of the Sutter-Pacifi railroad tracks. It is owned by California Department of Fish and Game. About 200 acres on the west side of the property are now 20-year dormant cropland with California Fescue and Barnum's currently growing. The 200 acres is divided into six sections. The first section is a 10-acre area of dormant cropland. The second section is a 10-acre area of dormant cropland. The third section is a 10-acre area of dormant cropland. The fourth section is a 10-acre area of dormant cropland. The fifth section is a 10-acre area of dormant cropland. The sixth section is a 10-acre area of dormant cropland.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will deliver the 10,000 plants in the next few days. The plants are native California grasses and shrubs. The plants are native California grasses and shrubs. The plants are native California grasses and shrubs. The plants are native California grasses and shrubs. The plants are native California grasses and shrubs. The plants are native California grasses and shrubs.

YOLO FLYWAY

DECEMBER 31, 1997
VOLUME 6 ISSUE 3

The Yolo Flyway is a periodic publication of the Yolo Basin Foundation. It is a quarterly publication. It is a quarterly publication. It is a quarterly publication. It is a quarterly publication. It is a quarterly publication. It is a quarterly publication.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor: Mark D. Smith, Jr. (The Yolo Flyway)
Managing Editor: Mark D. Smith, Jr. (The Yolo Flyway)
Photography: Mark D. Smith, Jr. (The Yolo Flyway)
Illustrations: Mark D. Smith, Jr. (The Yolo Flyway)
Design: Mark D. Smith, Jr. (The Yolo Flyway)

Corps to Fish and Game: “Here, it’s yours!”

The original purpose of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area dedication event was to mark the transfer of the Yolo Basin Project from the federal sponsor, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), to the local sponsor, California Department of Fish and Game. This important milestone was celebrated in a brief ceremony at the site of the President's visit just prior to his arrival. The ceremony began with a welcome by

Yolo Basin Foundation Chairman, Paul Simmons under the protection of very weather beaten umbrella. Colonel Dorothy Klise enthusiastically described the importance of the project and the Corps' new role as stewards of wildlife habitat. She then introduced Dr. John Zischky, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, who came all the way from Washington D.C. for the event. In his brief, wind swept words, Dr. Zischky presented a lovely bronze plaque listing the names of the many Yolo Basin partners. Jack Edwards, Fish and Game Conservation Education, accepted the plaque from Dr. Zischky. Jack then put on a red Corps baseball hat in the true spirit of partnership. California Waterfowl Association's Bill Gaines, Chairman of the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture gave the concluding remarks. Bill eloquently spoke of the



Paul Simmons welcoming Wildlife Area supporters, presentation of Yolo and Sally Mares.

importance of celebrating our accomplishments but that more importantly, we should take this time to recommit ourselves to continue our work on behalf of wetlands and wildlife.

The bronze plaque presented to Fish and Game is now hanging on the front wall of the Fish and Game Headquarters on Chiles Road. The plaque, designed by Mike Fujisawa and Robin Kulakow, reads, "Yolo Basin Wetlands: A cooperative project of many agencies, organizations, and individuals." Twenty names of agencies and organizations are listed. Congressman Vic Fazio, former State Assemblyman Tom Harnigan, and retired Yolo County Supervisor Betsy Murchard are listed as well. This plaque will be an important reminder to all of us of the commitments that made the restoration of the Yolo Basin Wetlands a reality.

Waterfowl Visit the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and Like What They See.



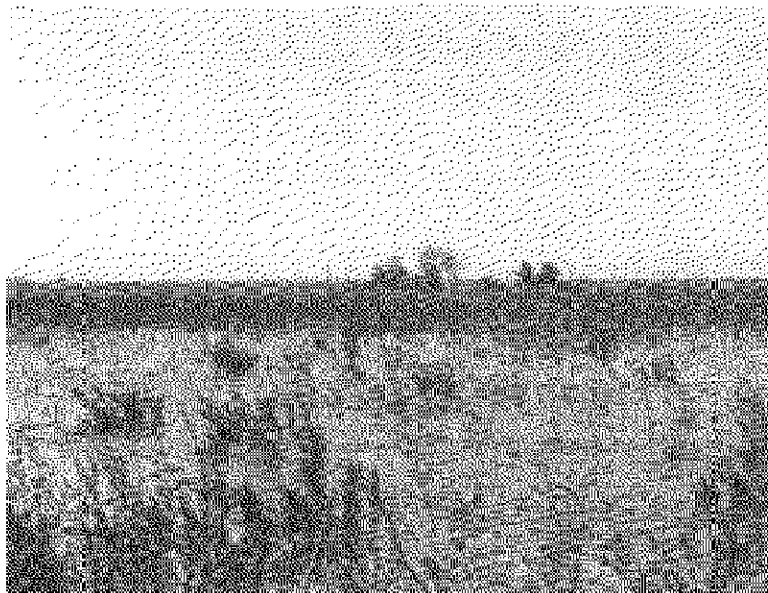
The Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area officially opened to the public on November 1, 1997.

Hunters showed up before dawn to get an orientation to the new area and a steady stream of bird watchers came throughout the day. The students in Alida Morrenti's Avian Sciences class were treated to the sight of a golden eagle that morning. California Department of Fish and Game staff estimate that on weekends 20-40 cars per day visit for wildlife viewing.

But use of the newly flooded ponds is very encouraging and promises to get better and better as the habitat develops. The only

continued next page





WATERFOWL, continued

arriving waterfowl included about 500 mallards and pintail in early September when the ponds were first flooded. The number and diversity of species rapidly rose to 5,000 ducks on November 1. By November 15th, 15,000 ducks were on hand to greet the President. According to Chris Röck, the Wildlife Area biologist, "It was surprising how early the ducks came through." It is a challenge for the staff to manage such a large water system the first year. According to Bob Mipes, the Region 2 manager who oversees the area, "It's going well. It's a learning process."

The waterfowl counts for mid-December are around 20,000 ducks evenly dispersed throughout the Wildlife Area. The dabbling ducks present include mallard, Northern pintail, Northern shoveler, green-winged teal, American widgeon, gadwall and wood duck. By mid-December the diving ducks present were canvasback, redhead, ring-necked, scup, bufflehead, and ruddy

duck. One December day 500 canvasbacks were counted. So far very few geese have arrived although they are flying overhead in large numbers. The same is true for the Tundra swans. The number of red-tailed hawks, Northern harriers, and kestrels hunting the new wetlands is

impressive. On October 10th, Kevin Guse led a field trip to the Wildlife Area. In three hours the group saw 52 different species of birds including a peregrine falcon.

According to Craig Sowers, Wildlife Area manager, the hunting is surprisingly good given the condition of the habitat and the newness of the place. He also is surprised at how well the birds have responded to the new wetlands. As of mid-December 380 hunters had gone through the area including 75 junior hunters. The bird take was 451 with an average of 1.3 ducks per hunter which is on par with many of the other State wildlife areas.

For those of us fortunate enough to visit the Wildlife Area regularly, the changes in the habitat are fascinating. It is especially exciting to see the large numbers of ducks show up in a new pond for the first time. For those of us involved in the planning of the area it is reassuring to see the new habitat "working." The release of thousands of ducks is constantly present and perhaps that is what is most noticeable. It sounds like a marsh!

Pacific Flyway Center

by Bob Schneider, Pacific Flyway Center Coordinator

The Yolo Basin Foundation recently received a \$5,000 "seed money" grant from Novo Nordisk Biotech, Inc. to support planting of a Pacific Flyway Center. Glenn Nedwin, President of Novo Nordisk Biotech wrote "Your vision for the Pacific Flyway Center to inspire and educate to instill an imperative to take care of our land, to make wetlands and wildlife meaningful to people's everyday lives—is exciting."

The Pacific Flyway Center Working Group, formed under the auspices of the Yolo Basin Foundation, proposes to build and operate an internationally recognized Center near the Yolo Basin wetlands and Interstate 68. Many members of the group were original members of the Yolo Basin Working Group whose efforts led to the success of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. They have developed a Case Statement, and are working on programming and a feasibility study.

The Foundation has hired Bob Schneider full time to coordinate the Pacific Flyway Center effort. Those interested in the Center can reach Bob at 530-758-4315.

"WELCOME MR. PRESIDENT"

Photo: Sam's father often helps with the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Photo courtesy of Tom and Julie Myers



As President Clinton visits communities around the country, a local young person is often asked to introduce him. The Yolo Bypass will asked me a student who was involved in the "National Through Volunteer Work" (NATVW) program, a program that encourages students to volunteer in their communities. I was chosen for this honor. Sam's father often helps with the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Photo courtesy of Tom and Julie Myers

"Thank you, Congressman Mazouze, McFarber and President Clinton, for honoring us by coming to celebrate the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area."

I have grown up with this project. It has been a constant learning experience for me—to see it grow from an idea discussed at dinner to a busy construction site, to become this marvelous place for birds and people.

Here we can all learn about the

natural world as it once was, through the experience of walking here, and watching, and listening. School children planting sedges and trees, learning to identify the birds and the grasses will come to respect and appreciate the environment, just as I have.

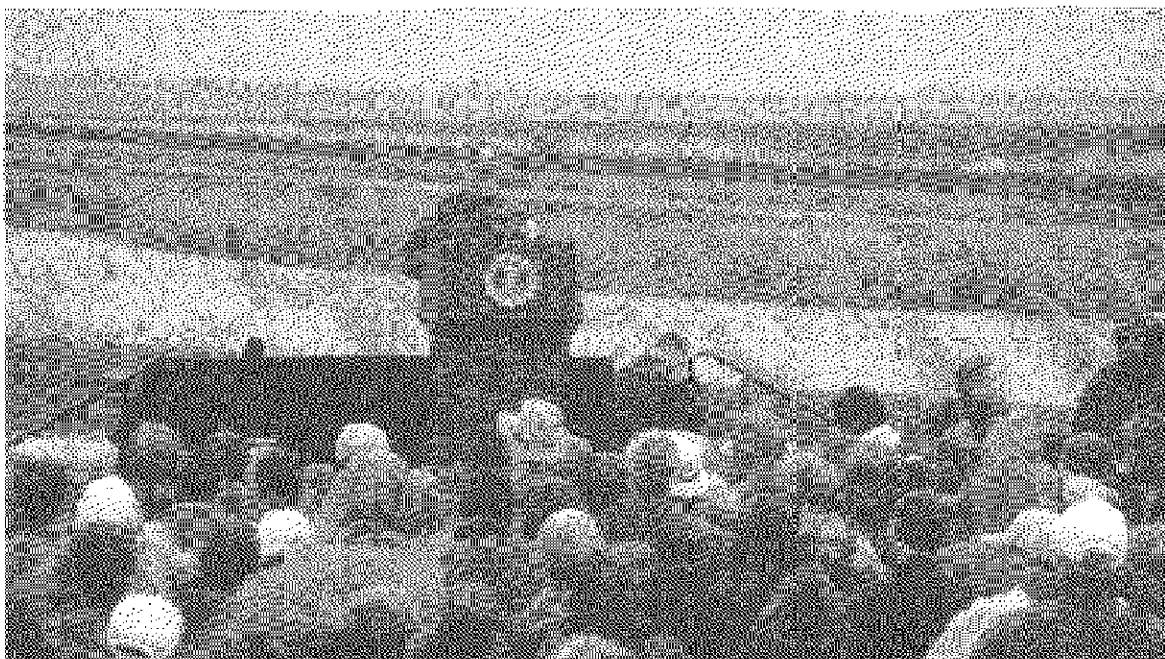
This wildlife area and its inhabitants will be here forever—for me, for my little brother and sister, my nephew, for my children, and for all the future generations of this community and of this nation. To learn and grow.

I have experienced the effort it takes to plant, to care for, and to protect these birds, plants, trees, and the people who live here.

My father often helps with the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Photo courtesy of Tom and Julie Myers

My father often helps with the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Photo courtesy of Tom and Julie Myers

My father often helps with the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Photo courtesy of Tom and Julie Myers



"That spot I thought had marshes I measured as just sort of cold, wet, rainy, muddy Washington, D.C. to come to California." Above: a ceremony of Tom and Kelly Myers.

Excerpts from President Clinton's Remarks

"Thank you very much. You can't imagine how much I wanted to get out of cold, wet, rainy, windy Washington, D.C. to come to California. But, after all, this is a wonderful event.

I want to, first of all, thank Sarah for her introduction... listening to her account of the experiences the last several years of her life I think was as good a statement as any as could be made about so many of you who are here and the work you have done to make this day come to pass. I want to thank all of you very much.

I'm very glad to be here with all of you. I want to thank Robin and Greg for directing me around the area and giving me a chance to look at some of the birds and just see what you're doing here. I asked them how many ducks and geese there were going to

be here and whether you had any eagles or ospreys or greys, and I got a pretty good indication on it.

And I have to say that I have been, as you have heard already, a big supporter of these kinds of endeavors. I thank the people from the California Water Panel Association, and I do want to say a special word of thanks to two groups with which I have been associated — first, the folks from the Corps of Engineers. They have not only changed their image, they've changed their reality. They're working hard not only to give us water projects, but to give us the kind of environmental conservation that we need for the long run. And I thank you very much, Colonel, and I thank all the people from the Corps for what you've done.

And let me just echo what was said earlier. I'm very proud of my very long association with Ducks Unlimited. They're doing a wonderful job in helping us to bring water back to our state and they do a great job in this country.

Finally, I'd like to say a word of appreciation to Vic Fazio, who is clearly one of the most outstanding members of the United States Congress in either party. If we had a hundred more people like him, America would have no problems... I want to thank Vic not only for his work here, but for the general efforts he's made, along with Senator Danner and Senator Feinstein and John Garamendi, for our efforts in the Bay Delta area, and the work that we are doing to try to guarantee the long-term needs of California for water.

supply, as well as water quality, habitat preservation and environmental progress. And that's very, very good.

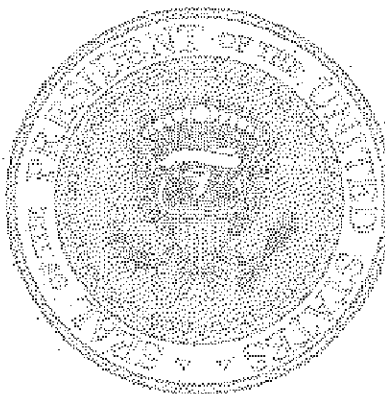
Let me say, I wanted to be here today, because to me this project is the embodiment of not only what we should be doing as Americans on the edge of a new century, but how we should be doing it. We worked very hard to create a country where things were working for ordinary Americans, where we were coming together across the lines that divide us and where we can be strong enough to continue to lead the world in the right direction. And that bridge that I talked about all the time I'm trying to build to the 21st century is going pretty well. We've got the strongest economy in a generation, crime and welfare are dropping. And our water quality, our air quality, our food safety, they're all improving. We are moving in the right direction.

One of the biggest challenges we will have to continue to face during the entire lifetime of all the children that are here is the challenge of trying to grow our economy and lift our standard of living while improving, not diminishing our environment. That is critical. A great deal of the history of 20th century California is a story of this battle. And the truth is, for most of the 20th century, not only in California but throughout America, whenever people thought about this, they either thought, I'm going to develop the economy, the environment will take care of itself, or they felt for a long time, it's unfortunate that we have to give up so much of our environment, but it's a necessary price we have to pay to continue to raise our living standards.

Now we know that is a false choice. And, indeed, we understand that over the long run if we want to preserve our ability to increase our standard of living we have to preserve our national environment and all the things that go with it.

Just for example, Greg Schmid and I were talking about this project and how the more you do these projects, the more you're going not only to have what you came here for today, but what you cannot see — you will use less water in rain runoff, and you will over time rebuild the aquifers that are below the land, that no one sees and most people don't think about. But that will enable you to sustain your population and to sustain your economic activity.

So again I say, I wanted to come here today because this is a huge



success. You're doing the right thing and you're doing it in the right way. And that's the second point I want to make. If we haven't learned anything in our country in the last few years, I hope we have learned we do not get very far when we just stand off and shout at each other and fight and argue all the time. But we can do anything if roll up or sleeves and get down to work and honestly listen to people who have different experiences, different perspectives, and different genuine interests. That's what you've done here. You've been able to bring everybody together, and I really feel good about that.

Here we are in the shadow of Sacramento. We see the farmlands here, and I promise you, when I crossed that levee today, I thought I was back home in eastern Arkansas,

and I kept waiting for somebody to give me my waders and a gun to go duck hunting.

What you have done today was based on the cooperation of state, federal, and local governments. That's how we ought to be dealing with all America's problems. You can't name a single problem we've got in this country that we could not make the kind of progress on we're celebrating today, if we didn't approach it the way you have approached this.

And I would implore you to think about what you can do and what you can say to people in this state, and your friends and family members and neighbors all around America, to take this attitude and this approach, not only to our environmental problems, but to all others.

You've been working on this since the late '80s. You ought to be very proud of it. But you ought to also draw confidence from this that there is no challenge facing this country that we cannot meet if we will just do what you have done here.

I am so proud of you — I know that you believe in it or you wouldn't be standing out here in the cold and rain listening to me talk.

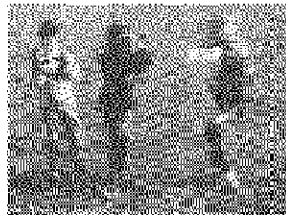
We're working hard across America on projects like this. We're making progress in reclaiming Florida Everglades, in restoring Lake Tahoe, in saving Yellowstone. We have funds in this latest bill, in our balanced budget plan, to continue this work. But I now can go around the country and talk to other people about what you've done here and tell them you believe in it so much you all showed up and stayed in the wind and the rain in sunny California.

Well, I've seen the wetlands here today, and some of you may have seen more than you wanted to see. But I'll tell you what else I've seen — I've seen a glimpse of America's future, and I like it. Thank you, and God bless you."

Discover the Flyway Update

by Liz Merry, Program Coordinator

Since mid-October the Yolo Basin Foundation and California Department of Fish and Game have been proud to host over 600 elementary school students through the *Discover the Flyway* program for schools. One of the first things you notice is that the students who visit the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area on a classroom field trip don't always follow along with the learning activities the teacher has planned. Some of the younger

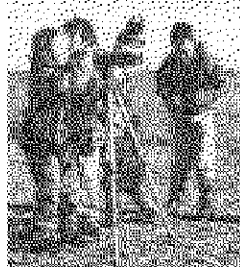


students, in second or third grade, don't necessarily have to look through the binoculars from the right direction to enjoy observing the birds. In fact, the children don't seem to need much direction at all about how to enjoy and appreciate the wetlands. Who even needs birds? The bugs are great and you can pick them up too.

Each new field trip provides a lesson that improves the program. Little clouds, like not having the children wear binoculars as they plant sedges in the mud, or leaving the students use the spotting scope unattended, only to find that some enjoy looking directly at the sun. These are the experiential lessons we incorporate into each new field trip.

Other projects in the *Discover the Flyway* program include a group of volunteers called *Wildlife Observers* who are regularly touring the auto tour route in the wetlands to observe the waterfowl, plant life, and human activity taking place. These dedicated volunteers have committed their energies to recording their observations, and describing the general state of things in the Wildlife Area. This information is then passed on to teachers to assist them in planning their trip. The volunteers include: Norm Dorris, Karen Gethan, Rick Heredia, Kristen Kolb, Dick Stanton, Penny Gordon, Gary Wegver, Laurie Wedra. The Observers are providing an important service to the teacher's in the *Discover the Flyway* program and to the Foundation. We thank them for their hard work.

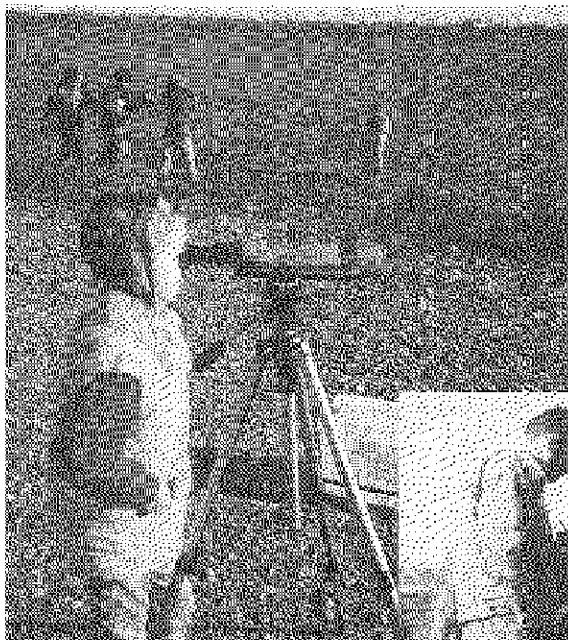
Finally, we have organized several supplementary training sessions for the volunteers, teachers and parents involved in field trips to the Wildlife Area. These evening training



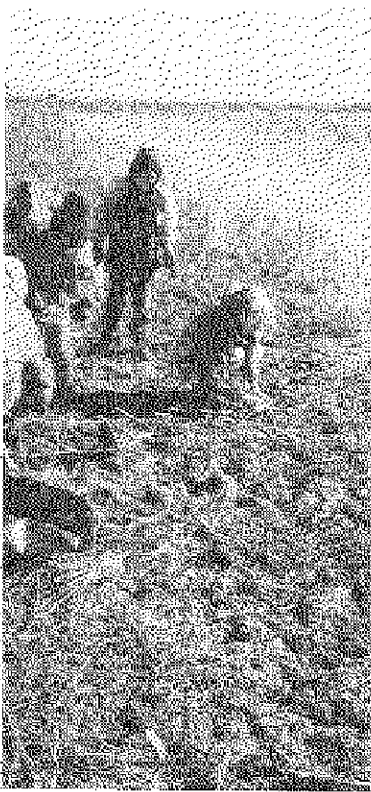
Students from Rosendo F. Villalobos School in Sacramento planning wetland and enjoying the wetlands.

sessions include a one-hour orientation to the Wildlife Area and a second hour of specialty training. During the second hour on November 19th, Woody Schlein from the Sacramento Mosquito Vector Control Agency came to discuss waterfowl identification. Along with a fabulous slide show of the waterfowl, Woody enjoys near the Mosquito Fish Hatchery in Elk Grove, we were treated to waterfowl calls and stories about the long-time feathery residents who inhabit the 40 acre pond site. Woody is also an active volunteer at the Stone Lakes Refuge and will be leading a field trip for California Duck Days in February. Don't miss his trip. He's a great interpreter!

On December 19th, the final training session of 1997 took place when Michelle Stevens from UC Davis presented "Edinoborany: Wetland Plants and Ecology". Ms. Stevens' presentation was very informative and the audience truly appreciated her skill at explaining and clarifying the names of various wedges, tules, and cattails. In addition, Ms. Stevens is actively involved in Native



American basketry and cultural awareness, and is therefore able to explain the various perceptions of plants from an academic, regulatory agency, and Native American perspective. Ms. Stevens' ability to translate information between different cultures is a rare talent. Foundation members are encouraged to attend her workshop at California Duck Days. Teachers interested in attending future *Discover the Flying* workshops should call me at (530) 758-1018 or e-mail me at flyway@defn.davis.ca.us.



YOLO BASIN FOUNDATION FIELD TRIPS

February 21, Tour of Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area: Leader: Mary Bethards. 9 a.m. - noon. Meet at the west fence gate at the end of Chiles Road east of Davis.

March 14, Tour of Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area: Leader: John Kohnen. 9 a.m. - noon. Meet at the west fence gate at the end of Chiles Road east of Davis.

March 21, Nature and Culture Tour of the Putah Creek Headwaters: Leader: Bob Taylor and David Robertson. All day trip. 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Meet at Vernalis Memorial Alameda Center Parking lot, 219 East 14th, Davis. You may also meet at the Vernalis Community Center parking lot at 8:45 a.m. to join the caravan.

April 4, Tour of Upper Cache Creek: Leader: Ann Bruce & Steve Chaffee. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Meet at the Haley's Superstore parking lot at the West Gate Center, 347 W. Main St. in Woodland.

April 19, Tour of Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area: 9 a.m. - noon

April 25, City of Davis Wetlands Site: Leader: Mike Connor. 8:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Meet at City of Davis Water Pollution Control Plant, Road 284 & HWY

May 2, Upper Cache Creek and Rayhouse Road: Leader: John Kohnen. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Meet at the Haley's Superstore parking lot at the West Gate Center, 347 W. Main St. in Woodland.

May 17, Tour of Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area: Leader: Sud Eng. 9 a.m. - noon

June 6, Saturday, Conway Ranch Bird Pond: Leader: Mike Hall. 9 a.m. - noon. Meet at Conway Ranch Headquarters parking lot at the very west end of County Road 25.

August 1, Conway Ranch Bird Banding: Leader: Mike Hall. 9:30 a.m. - noon

A complete schedule with these details for the 1999 field conditions can be mailed to you. Call (530) 758-1018 and leave your name and address. You may also reach us by e-mail at flyway@defn.davis.ca.us.

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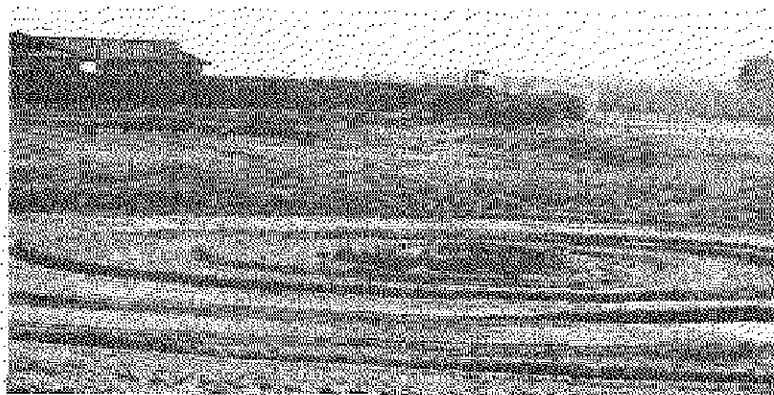
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Work Begins on Demonstration Wetland

Thanks to rice farmer Allen Garcia's contribution is underway for a two-acre demonstration wetland located adjacent to the new Yolo Bypass State Wildlife Area Headquarters on Chiles Road east of Davis. In early November Mr. Garcia began the earthwork, or earth sculpting as he calls it, to create the new two acre pond. This exciting new Yolo Basin Foundation project in partnership with the State Department of Fish and Game is funded through

Many program for schools. It is another example of a successful Yolo Basin partnership providing habitat and educational resources for the community. Look for upcoming announcements recruiting volunteers for planting days next spring.

Allen Garcia with Living Farms Center for Sustainable Agriculture, grows organic rice at Croswines Preserve south of Sacramento. Mr. Garcia is well known for his skill in recreating wetland habitats on



Allen Garcia discussing pond design and construction with Mike Inglette in the background.

grants from California Waterfowl Association, Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The demonstration wetland will be modeled after the larger ponds in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and will serve as an easily accessible outdoor classroom for students of all ages. There will be observation areas and a trail accessing the pond for closer study. All vegetation will be native plants typical of Central Valley wetlands and riparian areas, providing an excellent opportunity for students to become familiar with native plants at a convenient study site. This project will be an integral part of the Yolo Basin Foundation's *Discover the*

existing farmland and demonstrating wildlife friendly farming practices. The Foundation is fortunate to have the services of Mr. Garcia.

Mike Fujisawa, landscape architect with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, prepared the site plans and is working on the irrigation design. Andy Hobb and Bob Smith with Lucy Walker Associates, consulting engineers, provided the pre-design site survey. Grading and installation of water control structures will be completed by Allen Garcia and California Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Area personnel this winter as ground conditions permit. Native grass plugs for a perennial grassland surrounding the pond will be provided by Hedgerow Farms.

Thank you to the 1997 Bucks for Ducks Sponsors:

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BUCKS FOR DUCKS: SEVEN YEARS OLD AND GOING STRONG

The Yolo Basin Foundation would like to thank John Whitcombe, Paul Makley and Bill Roe of Tandem Properties for hosting the seventh annual "Bucks for Ducks" fund-raising reception. The picturesque setting next to the Northstar pond, created by Tandem Properties, was certainly an appropriate place for wildlife supporters to enjoy the evening. As the evening progressed, the many geese, ducks and egrets that circled over before settling into the pond seemed to be co-sponsors of the event and certainly reminded those present of the importance of their efforts.

The proceeds from Bucks for Ducks support the Foundation's activities throughout the year including the new *Discover the Flyway* program for schools and other activities on behalf of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Thank you to our over 50 sponsors and over 150 people attending the event.

Special thanks to the following donors of event supplies or in-kind services: Maggie Fernan, Looking Glass Framing Gallery, Mustard Seed, and V. Santoni, Strefizia Flower

Company, Valley Wine, Judy Whitcombe, and Judy Yost.

Also thank you to the following donors of raffle items: The Artery, Avid Reader, Cornflower Farms, Ual & Rosie, Cushing, Davis Food Co-op, Discoveries, Giselles Travel, Horse Phis, John Lescount, The Naturalist, The Pahr Chip and Super Salad.

Thank you to California Waterfowl Association, State Department of Fish and Game, Sandra Durne and Tom & Meg Stallard for donations of art work and other items to the silent auction. Thank you to also to the following artists for donations of their work: Harry Adamson, Carol Brandt, Adele Earnshaw, Keith Hansen, Thomas Quinn, Vicki Hipsley, Dave Sellers, Robert Solari, Sherrie Russell Melina, and Judy Whitcombe.

Thank you to our hardworking volunteers: Mickey Barlow, Barbara Nesch, Joan Humphrey, Bill Julian, Liz Merry, Tandy Maxwell, Bob Logan & Charlie Schfelder, Pamela Roemer, May Schlect, Iris Tennerbaum. We thank our many community supporters for making the event a great success for the seventh year in a row.

California Duck Days

"At last, an event that's all it's cracked up to be!"

Join the thousands of wildlife enthusiasts headed for the Veterans Memorial Center in Davis, February 7 and 8th at California Duck Days 1998.

The largest wildlife festival in Northern California Duck Days caters to top educators, hunters and lovers of the great outdoors for two days of seminars, field trips and fun for the whole family.

Lively workshops and demonstrations will please you and your young chicks. Backyard naturalists and avid Archers include decoy carving, bird costing, waterfowl identification, duck raising and bird and water displays. And at all, you can watch thousands of ducks, geese, cranes, ducks, and shorebirds traveling the Pacific Flyway.

Registration is \$8 per day for adults, or just \$12 for a non-trip local children. To avoid undue crowding, please arrive early. Opportunities are numerous. Be sure you arrive when California Duck Days 98 and get a first-hand look at the fun. Please call 754-1222 or 800-423-5300.

California Duck Days turns Five Years Old!

by Liz Merry, Duck Days Coordinator

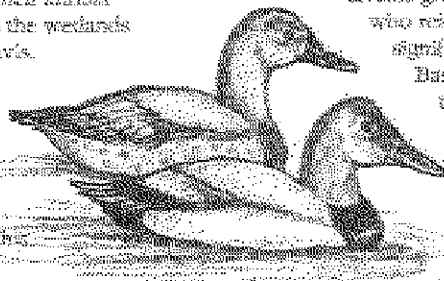
California Duck Days will celebrate its fifth anniversary on February 7th and 8th, 1998. For California wildlife festivals, that's no small accomplishment. The festival includes an impressive array of workshops, field trips, demonstrations, and a large Exhibition Hall full of educational displays and vendors. For the first time, the California Waterfowl Association (CWA) will co-host the festival with Yolo Basin Foundation by combining their annual Exposition into the weekends weekend in Davis. CWA's participation adds a whole new level of content and volunteer commitment. This year the World Duck Symposium will also be taking place at UC Davis during the festival.

Each year since its inception, the planners of Duck Days have noticed more and more wildlife festivals springing up in California. In November, 1996, we met with festival coordinators from throughout California at the National Warchable Wildlife conference. During those discussions it became clear there are a few key ingredients that make California Duck Days a cherished event for everyone involved.

First, this festival is run by and for people passionate about wetlands and wildlife. The mission of the festival is to "educate and inspire," and the volunteers who lend their knowledge and skills to the festival pass on their own inspiration to the participants.

Second, the mixture of talent, knowledge, and interest in the Davis area seems unsurpassed. At UC Davis, professors, graduate students, administrators, undergraduates and alumni understand the importance of translating knowledge into action in order to support wildlife and habitat. The California Duck Days experience could not be equaled without the energies and creativity lent by the folks at UC Davis.

Third, the festival began as a vision of Bob Schneider's and a diverse group of people who realized the significance of the Yolo Basin wetlands to the Pacific Flyway. In order to celebrate the wetlands and provide a fun, educational event to the public, they



organized under the auspices of the Yolo Environmental Resource Center, with Elaine Hébert at the helm as Coordinator and Bob Barnes lending his support and experience from many other wildlife festivals. The first Duck Days was held only five months after the first "Steering Committee" decided the event would take place. In 1995 Duck Days became a project of the Yolo Basin Foundation.

Today we begin planning the festival almost the day after it ends. The energy created from the event last February was tangible with each Steering Committee excited about making it even better in 1998. I'm extremely proud to let you know, they've done it. The festival will be an amazing, diverse, content-rich and activity-rich weekend full of fun. It's going to be the best California Duck Days yet! We'll see you there.

EAGLES

by John Ramsey

When we think of Yolo County, we generally don't think of eagles, but we should. We've got both kinds of eagles here, and seem to be getting more of them.

The classic eagle, of course, is the Bald Eagle, our national emblem. Almost everyone recognizes an adult Bald Eagle, with its white head and tail. Recognizing an *immature* Bald Eagle, however, is not so easy, and we'll talk about that later.

Bald Eagles have been on the increase everywhere, including in Yolo County. There is a significant winter population in Cache Creek Canyon, and birds from there regularly drift downstream as far as Ramsey and Guinda. In November 1997, one was even spotted in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, and we can probably count on seeing them there more often, as the duck population increases.

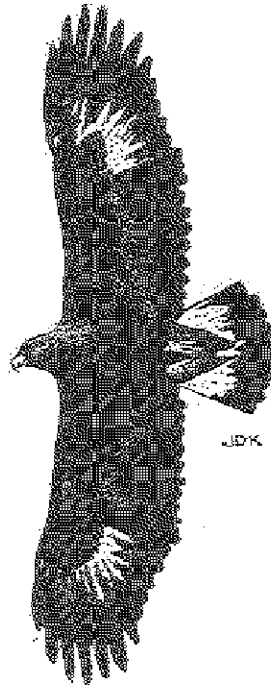
The wildlife programs on TV tell us that Bald Eagles are principally consumers of fish, and so they are, provided there are fish around for them to get. But when fish aren't readily available, they live on geese, ducks, and coots, and to some extent on small mammals. Do they occasionally prey on lambs, as charged by many ranchers? Some observers claim they have seen them do that, although in many cases the eagles probably picked up the lambs after they were already dead.

Bald Eagles are capable of taking ducks on the wing, and frequently do, so. However, another technique they use is to harass a duck on the water. The duck dives each time it is attacked, but the eagle pursues it and attacks each time it surfaces until the duck is exhausted.

If the duck can get airborne, it generally has a better chance of

escaping, but some ducks require a long and clumsy takeoff before they can get aloft. Occasionally, such clumsy risers have escaped by surfacing directly under the eagle's tail, and taking off before the eagle can turn around.

Our other eagle is the Golden Eagle. Usually these are birds of the foothills and mountains, but again, one was recently spotted in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Golden Eagles mostly prey on small mammals, but



have been known to attack animals as large as antelope, deer, lambs, dogs, cats, young pigs, and foxes.

Do they also carry off human babies? The answer appears to be no, although that is not to say they wouldn't do so if given the opportunity. There is at least one case, apparently authentic, of a Golden Eagle attacking a nine-year-old girl, although the attacker was bitten off. A factor that works against such attacks is the limit of how much

an eagle can lift off the ground. In one experiment, an eagle weighing 31 pounds could not lift a weight of 5 1/2 pounds. But in another case, an observer saw an eagle carry off a 7-pound jackrabbit.

What about this business of identifying immature eagles? Well, that's one of the tougher problems for birds, because immature Bald Eagles and immature Golden Eagles can look much alike. It takes 4 to 5 years to gain adult plumage, for both kinds of eagles. As immatures, they are generally brown with blotchy white areas. The location of these white areas provides one of the keys to identification.

If the eagle shows white areas at the base of the primaries (the major flight feathers), it's a Golden Eagle, because Bald Eagles don't do that. (See accompanying illustration.) If it shows white in the "arm-pits" (called the *axillaries*), it's a Bald Eagle, because Golden Eagles don't do that. But immature eagles can get very creative about how much white they're going to show in these areas, so it's not always quite so easy.

Another place to look is at the white areas of the tail. In both species, there will probably be some white at the base of the tail when they're young. If the white area is sharply delineated from the black at the end of the tail, that's a sign it's probably a Golden Eagle. The white on Bald Eagles tends to be more diffuse.

Another key is how much the eagle's head projects in front of the wing, when the bird is soaring. If the head projection is less than half the tail length, then it's a Golden Eagle. If it's more than half the tail length, it's a Bald Eagle.

Easy, isn't it? Just wait until you get one with intermediate characteristics, and also find yourself unable to decide whether the head sticks out more than, or less than, a half-tail length. You might have to put it down as "Eagle, unidentified."

CITY OF DAVIS WETLANDS UPDATE

by Mike Conner, Wildlife Resource Specialist, City of Davis,
Public Works Dept.

The earthwork for the City's wetlands has been completed. The final inspection for acceptance from the contractor is scheduled for the end of December. Presently, the city is filling the site with reclaimed water at a rate of five million gallons per day, and four of the seven permanent areas are inundated. Although the wetland is mostly devoid of vegetation, some waterfowl including mule swans have begun using the site. The planting contract will begin January 1, 1998. The City and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are pleased to announce that Sierra View Landscaping Inc. was awarded this contract. Sierra View has a great track record with their work for the City's Woodbridge Park project and

the California Department of Fish & Game's Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. During the next year the City wetlands will be planted with over 6,000 trees and shrubs, and the entire 400 acres will be seeded with native grasses and forbs. Emergent aquatic species such as bulrush and spike rush will be plug planted. During the fall of 1998 volunteers will be supplied with native grass seeds, soil and containers to grow plugs that will be planted into the city wetlands in December. If you are interested then please leave your name and address with Mike Conner at (530) 757-5686 x7531. Public access to the area should begin sometime in 1998.

Visit the new Yolo Basin Foundation website at www.yolobasin.org. There you will find information on Yolo Basin Foundation programs including a detailed lake trip schedule. Thank you to Iris Thompson and Lori Baker for many hours of volunteer time getting the site up and running.

JOIN THE YOLO BASIN FOUNDATION

I would like to become a friend of the Yolo Basin Foundation. Enclosed is a donation of:

☐ \$25. ☐ \$35 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ other

Please make checks payable to Yolo Basin Foundation and send to: P.O. Box 943, Davis, CA 95617. Donations of \$15 or more will receive a complimentary set of Yolo Basin Waterfowl Identification cards. Donations are not deductible. Thank you for your support.

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"You ought to be very proud of (this project) and also draw confidence from this that there is no challenge facing this country today that we cannot face."

— President Clinton

Clinton praises wetlands project



Mark Bullard/The Enterprise

Above, President Clinton lifts his binoculars to view the wildlife during a tour of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area on Saturday morning. Joining Clinton on the walking tour are, from left, Deputy Interior Secretary

John Garamendi, who once represented Davis in the state Senate, farmer Greg Schmid, who used to raise crops on the acreage now restored as wetlands, Rep. Vic Fazio, D-West Sacramento, and Robin Kulakow of

the Yolo Basin Foundation. At top, Clinton greets some of the invited guests who braved wind and rain — and who waited for hours in the cold and mud — to attend the dedication ceremony.

◆ Rain can't dampen spirits as president acknowledges this public-private venture

■ More stories, photos on Page A-8

By MELANIE TURNER
Enterprise staff writer

Robin Kulakow of Davis never imagined she would walk alongside the president of the United States through the wet-

lands she holds so dear to her heart.

But under dark skies and drizzle, and tramping through the mud, Kulakow, executive director of the Yolo Basin Foundation, pointed out various bird species to President Clinton on Saturday.

Clinton, who came to Davis to formally dedicate the 3,700-acre wildlife area, called it a model for dealing with many of the nation's problems. The delicate agreement meshing endangered species and flood control interests may set precedent

for future projects.

The public-private project shows that wildlife, flood control and agriculture can co-exist in a largely urban setting.

Clinton said the project is the "embodiment of not only what we should be doing as Americans on the edge of the 21st Century, but how we should be doing it."

Clinton added that those who made it happen should be proud.

"You ought to be very proud of it and also draw confidence from this that there

is no challenge facing this country today that we cannot face," he said while addressing the 1,000 people who attended the wetlands dedication.

Clinton arrived via motorcade after Air Force One touched down at McClellan Air Force Base. The president's 26-car motorcade drove along a levee road to the wetlands, located in a flood control channel south of Interstate 80 and east of Davis.

See CLINTON, Page A-9

CLINTON

Continued from Page A-1

Attendance at the event was by invitation only. Attendees included local elected officials, and family and friends of the organizations that helped turn the eight-year project into a reality.

They left cold and wet, but uplifted.

"I'm still coming to grips with the fact that this truly is a national resource. Right here in Yolo County," said Dave Rosenberg of Davis, chairman of the Yolo County Board of Supervisors.

Commonly referred to as the Putah Sinks, the area serves as a rest stop along the Pacific Flyway, a route used annually by thousands of migratory birds. Some of the land is reserved for hunting, hiking and wildlife watching, while other areas are sealed off as a wildlife sanctuary.

On Saturday, Clinton donned a red U.S. Army Corps of Engineers cap, a blue-green windbreaker and khakis. He stood atop a podium in the rain with a grassy pond as a backdrop, recognizing the cooperative efforts of public and private partnerships.

The result — the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area — is now the largest wetlands restoration project east of the Florida Everglades.

Clinton said the land reminded him of his home state.

"When I crossed that levee today, I thought I was back home in Eastern Arkansas, and I kept waiting for someone to get me my waders and a gun to go duck hunting."

Clinton said one of the biggest challenges the nation will have to face is how to increase our economy while improving, not diminishing our environment. Whereas once people thought the environment would "take care of itself," or thought, "It's a necessary price we'll have to pay," now we know better, he said.

Many observers of the long process agree that without the tireless work of Kulakow, 40, and the Yolo Basin Foundation, the project would have washed away long ago.

A group of people from Yolo Audubon Society and Putah Creek Council, including Ted Beedy and Steve Chainey, first conceived of the idea in 1989 for re-creating a wetlands habitat.

The Yolo Basin Foundation is a non-profit corporation dedicated to educating people about wetlands and wildlife. It formed that same year to promote the establishment of the wildlife area.

Around 1900, the area was developed into a facility for diverting Sacramento River floodwaters away from the city and into the Delta.

Kulakow picked up the project after

"(Rep. Vic Fazio) has been truly the major supporter and sponsor of this effort. No matter what obstacle was thrown up against it, he managed to negotiate a solution through consensus and compromise. And it's quite a legacy for him, I believe. And for all of us."

— Davis Mayor Lois Wolk

some initial discussions and invited more people to join in their vision. Eventually, she quit her job as a soils scientist with the state to be a full-time volunteer on the project.

Later, volunteers managed to convince the state and federal government of the project's value. The wetlands restoration project ultimately was created with state, federal and private support. The federal government contributed \$12 million of the \$17 million cost, with the state contributing the balance.

After years of negotiations between the Army Corps of Engineers, private organizations, the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture Coalition, the state Reclamation Board, Department of Water Resources, state Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an agreement was reached to balance the needs of floodplain managers and environmentalists.

The Yolo Basin Foundation helped to negotiate an agreement among all the agencies that addressed their concerns about endangered species and management of vegetation and recognized the first function of the bypass as flood control.

Many on Saturday, including Clinton, thanked Rep. Vic Fazio, D-West Sacramento, for his constant support of this and other environmental efforts. Fazio worked to secure federal funds for the project.

"Vic has been truly the major supporter and sponsor of this effort," Davis Mayor Lois Wolk said afterwards. "No matter what obstacle was thrown up against it, he managed to negotiate a solution through consensus and compromise. And it's quite a legacy for him, I believe. And for all of us."

Fazio has spoken many times before the people of Yolo County about wetlands issues. But he said he's never had a better time doing it than he did on Saturday.

"I don't think I've ever had more fun than the day I brought along the president of the United States," Fazio told the crowd.

The permanent ponds in the bypass already are attracting more waterfowl than ever before. Almost 10,000 ducks showed up one recent morning in one small area of the wetlands that wasn't flooded last year.

Less than 5 percent of California's historical wetlands remain today, Fazio said.

The wetlands project mimics seasonal flooding, explained Bill Gaines, director of government affairs and chairman of the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture.

"In essence, you're farming for ducks," Gaines said. "You build it and they will come."

Ten years ago, waterfowl populations had dropped to about 50 million birds on the North American continent. Already, because of similar efforts inspired by the North American Waterfowl Management Plan signed by the United States and Canada, and with some help from mother nature, those numbers are up to from 90 to 100 million birds of various species, Gaines said.

Ground work on the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area project began two years ago. For starters, an eight-acre riparian forest was planted. It's now thriving. Some trees are as tall as seven feet. Earth in the bypass has been sculpted into large, shallow ponds.

Contractors under the supervision of Ducks Unlimited did the earth-moving work to create the thousands of acres of seasonal and permanent ponds that make up the wildlife area. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Ducks Unlimited also contributed to the project's construction.

Oversight of the area was transferred Saturday to Fish and Game.

Clinton said efforts like the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area will actually help the state conserve water by, as one example, using less water runoff in the future.

"You're doing the right thing and you're doing it in the right way," he told the audience.

"...I've seen a glimpse of America's future and I like it."

In search of ...



From left, Karielgh Rose, Helen Yasko and Monica Ordoñez use their binoculars to get a closer look at birds in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area during a field trip to the site east of Davis Wednesday morning. The girls are students in Dorothy Petersen's second-grade class at Pioneer Elementary School. Their visit was one of the first offered through the Yolo Basin Foundation's new Discover the Flyway educational program. For details, see story on Page A-2.

Sue Cockrell/The Enterprise

Schoolchildren discover the Yolo Bypass flyway

"I found a bug!" was one of the most common exclamations from Belinda Kesser's second-grade class as they initiated the Discover the Flyway program in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area for the first time last Friday.

The children searched wetland water for protozoan creatures, explored the difference between natural and non-natural items, and were thrilled by the presence of blue herons, great egrets and many flocks of ducks flying into the Wildlife Area for their winter layover.

The Discover the Flyway program started in late August, when 47 elementary school teachers were trained how to use the Wildlife Area as an outdoor classroom for their students.

"The teachers are very enthusiastic about the opportunity to use this new resource," said Dorothy Petersen, a second-grade teacher at Pioneer Elementary School. She brought her students to the wetlands on Wednesday to add the hands-on experience of the place to her classroom lessons about water, wildlife and the environment.

Her students sampled the wa-

ter, planted sedges in the mud and walked the "Un-Nature Trail" during their two-hour field trip to the Wildlife Area.

Jean Rissman, a teacher at Silveville Primary School in Dixon, led the first classroom sedge planting in the area.

"The children enjoyed the mud and the critters," Rissman said, "and I believe they will remember this trip for a very long time."

Cornflower Farms donated the sprouted sedge plants that were planted by the children, and the California Department of Fish and Game coordinated the planting effort.

The Discover the Flyway program provides support for the teachers who completed the initial workshops by providing learning materials and volunteer assistance.

The Yolo Basin Foundation intends to provide mini-workshops about the wetlands for teachers, parents and volunteers interested in helping with the field trips in November. Anyone interested in volunteering, or teachers interested in visiting the wetlands, should call 758-1018.

Davis Enterprise
10/16/97

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ONE SHIELDS AVENUE
DAVIS, CALIFORNIA 95616-8688

May 7, 1998

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to support Yolo Basin Foundation's request for funding to expand their environmental education program. Discover the Flyway has proven to be an excellent program, reaching regional school children through providing teachers with a coherent curricula and an accessible field site to take their classes to experience science first hand. We welcome the addition of the middle school audience and the new sites which will expand the experience from natural history to applied problems in agriculture and the environment.

Yolo Basin Foundation is a partner in a regional educational alliance to bring education on the environment to diverse audiences. The University of California Davis, on behalf of this alliance, is submitting a proposal to the National Science Foundation (June 1, 1998) for funding for "Learning Landscapes and Watersheds". This is a collaborative university and community informal education project specifically targeting middle school aged youth. University resources would be available to assist the development of partner's programs and to provide training for university students to implement these programs. There is an increasingly large group of science educators at the University interested in extending university resources on behalf of public education.

It is a pleasure to work with Yolo Basin Foundation, and I heartily recommend you fund their proposal to expand the highly successful Discover the Flyway program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joyce Gutstein", is written over a horizontal line.

Joyce Gutstein
Associate Director

Principal Investigator (NSF project)



Barbara D. Wells • Principal

5215 Hamel Street • Davis, CA 95616-4426 • 530/757-5480 • Fax 530/757-5482

May 4, 1998

Cheryl Chipman
Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area
45211 County Road 32B
Davis, CA 95616

Dear Cheryl:

This letter is in enthusiastic support for the Yolo Basin Foundations' "Discover the Flyways" environmental education program. The development of this area has notably changed our involvement and direct access to and with the environment at Pioneer Elementary School from grades 1st through 6th. This program has made the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area an exciting, ever-changing ecological niche accessible for hands-on teaching and investigative learning.

The integration of already used programs like "Project Wild" and "Wild About the Wetlands" make the outdoor and indoor lessons developed by "Discover the Flyways" staff along with practicing teacher richer and more in depth instead of add-ons like so many recently published programs.

The inclusion of two new sites in the Yolo Basin Area focusing on water treatment/wetland restoration and the other on compatible wildlife/agricultural usage of land will work into our curriculum on land resource utilization, communities and neighborhoods, and the water cycle/weather and their impacts. We have had hundreds of students involved this year in lessons at school or at the wetlands including plantings, greeting the President, field trips and integrations with university resources.

Because this great resource is our neighbor, we feel privileged to have watched its evolution from conception to inception to implementation. We as a total school site support the expansion of this program. The fostering of lifelong learning and stewardship of our world resources are of utmost importance to our community, our region, our educational process and, ultimately, to our nation. This is truly an evolving model program.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Wells".

Barbara Wells
Principal